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Face-Saving Exit for Mobutu As Rebels Near the Capital, He Will 'Visit' Gabon

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Zaire — With anti-government rebels closing in on the capital, state television announced Tuesday that President Mobutu Sese Seko would leave the country Wednesday on a three-day trip to Gabon, a departure widely viewed as a flight from Kinshasa to avoid its imminent fall.

The announcement came a day after the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, threatened to hunt down Mobutu and his closest supporters in the streets of Kinshasa if he did not resign.

The televised announcement read Tuesday evening said Mobutu's trip was to attend a summit meeting of French-speaking regional leaders on the crisis in the African Great Lakes region, which comprises Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire, and government officials were quick to

insist that the president would return afterward.

"It is almost certain that Mr. Mobutu will leave tomorrow," a senior presidential aide said. "He will return by all means from Gabon on Friday."

But another member of the presidential entourage said of Marshal Mobutu, who is suffering from advanced prostate cancer, "We all expect that after Gabon he will go to the hospital somewhere for treatment."

Diplomats from the United States, South Africa and other countries have been working steadily in the last few days to ease Marshal Mobutu out of power and avoid a violent takeover of this crowded city of 5 million.

Mr. Mobutu's departure on Wednesday, if it takes place, would mean that the 66-year-old dictator would be able to leave his country on official

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Swiss Urged to Freeze His Assets

By Elizabeth Olson
New York Times Service

GENEVA — With President Mobutu Sese Seko's power waning, the Swiss authorities have come under pressure to disclose, and freeze, whatever part of the huge sums he is believed to have looted from Zaire that he may have deposited or invested here. So far, however, they have decided not to do so.

It is widely assumed, here and abroad, that some

or much of Marshal Mobutu's fortune has been deposited in Swiss banks, but unless the government acts to block the assets, nobody can say how much. While estimates of the Zairian leader's fortune range well into the billions of dollars, some officials say only a small part of it may ultimately be traceable to bank accounts to which he can be linked.

The uncomfortable suspicion that Marshal

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An aide said Marshal Mobutu would return by Friday, but a member of his entourage contradicted that.

Labour Empowers U.K. Central Bank To Set Interest Rate

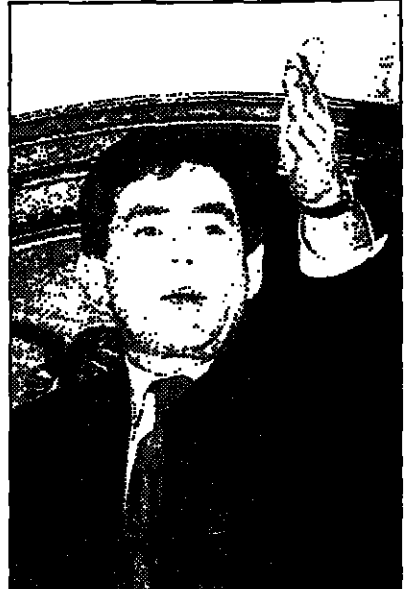
By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Britain's four-day-old Labour government put a bold new stamp on economic policy Tuesday by effectively granting the Bank of England its independence, in the biggest expansion of the central bank's powers since its founding in 1694.

The lightning move by the new chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to transfer the power to set interest rates and other monetary policy from an elected politician — himself — to a bank panel stunned the financial community.

Mr. Brown also announced, a day ahead of schedule, a 0.25 percentage-

Vote altered Ulster outlook. Page 5.



Gordon Brown announcing the last government-ordered rate rise.

point increase in the official base interest rate, to 6.25 percent, in a bid to hold down inflation.

"I would give the new chancellor a 10 out of 10 in what is effectively his first day on the job," said Nigel Richardson, chief bond strategist at Yamatchi International. Stocks, bonds and the pound all rose.

The Bank of England's new status gives it powers that most central banks in the industrialized world have exercised for years, including the U.S. Federal Reserve System and the Bundesbank in Germany. The British central bank will be able to raise or lower the base rate — the rate at which it lends to commercial banks, and thus the determinant for commercial and retail interest rates — whenever it decides economic conditions warrant a change.

In announcing his decisions, Mr. Brown made clear that the Labour Party would stick to the careful and conservative stewardship of the economy that it had promised during the campaign.

Saying that Britain had been in economic decline for much of this century, Mr. Brown pledged to rebuild the na-

tion's economic vigor "on the solid rock of prudent and consistent economic management, not the shifting sands of boom and bust."

To vouchsafe that pledge, the chancellor said the government would set only the target for inflation.

While Mr. Brown had said for years that he intended to grant the central bank power to set rates, most had thought the change unlikely, especially in the near term.

Effective immediately, though, the keys to monetary policy have been handed to what will become a nine-member Monetary Policy Committee. It will include the Bank of England's governor, two deputies and two other officials plus four outsiders to be appointed.

See BRITAIN, Page 10

A Bartered Bride's 'No' Stuns Papua New Guinea

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

MINJ, Papua New Guinea — The compensation demand for the killing of a clan leader in this remote mountain village followed a complex tribal calculus: \$15,000, 25 pigs and an 18-year-old woman named Miriam Winalgal.

Dollar by dollar the offending clan began to collect the money. One by one the pigs were rounded up. But then something happened that shocked the elders of both clans and has since reverberated through this largely tribal nation.

Miriam Winalgal said no. At first, she said, it had not occurred to her to

Rejection of Tribal Custom Is a Sign of Changing Times

object. Women have been bought as brides in parts of Papua New Guinea for centuries. It has been only a few decades since the tribes that populate the remote mountains here discovered that they are not the only people on earth, and village life still mostly follows ancient codes.

But in a striking sign of changing times, Miss Winalgal had a personal ambition. She wanted to finish high school. "I want to learn to be a typist," she said in an interview in Port Moresby, the capital,

300 miles (500 kilometers) to the southeast, where she has taken refuge from her angry relatives.

"I want to have my own money," she said, covering her face with her hand in embarrassment. "I don't want to have to depend on a man."

As Papua New Guinea, an independent nation for just 21 years, seeks to find a way to integrate traditional and modern values, the "compensation-girl case" has taken on broader dimensions.

Susan Balen, another woman who broke with tradition to become a lawyer, has taken the case to court, using what is known here as "written law" to challenge the treatment of women under tribal tradition.

See BRIDE, Page 10

Cross-Border Abortion Bending Europe's Laws Clinics for Foreigners Are a Thriving Option

By Anne Swardson
Washington Post Service

BARCELONA — Lying in bed under a pile of blankets at the clinic, the dark-haired Frenchwoman looked remarkably chipper for someone who had had an abortion only two hours before. Coming to Spain to end her unwanted pregnancy, she said, had restored her future.

Because the 31-year-old secretary had recently stopped taking birth control pills, she had not realized she was expecting until after she was 10 weeks into her pregnancy — beyond the limit set by French abortion law, one of the strictest in Europe.

Because she was no longer with the father, she said, keeping the baby was not an option. Then she learned that one option was a four-hour drive away.

"I had no idea that in Spain you could go up to 22 weeks of pregnancy" until the trip was suggested by a French family-planning organization, said the woman, who asked that her name not be used. "Europe is getting closer, but we don't always know about each other's laws. I was a little nervous about coming here, but being welcomed so much helps."

Welcomed in her own language, too. The clinic here, about 20 percent of whose patients are French, has several employees who are fluent in French, as are most of the doctors and the staff psychologist. Carlos Morin, the Spanish physician who runs the clinic, said he catered to French patients because "geographically, we are responsible for women who can't find answers in their own country."

As nations have relaxed their border controls to the point where people can travel freely within the European Union, officials worry about free flows of drugs or of illegal immigrants. Although no one likes to talk about it, they also are keenly aware that abortion is as much a European issue as a national one.

Irish, Italian and French women go to Britain to obtain abortions that, for one reason or another, would be illegal at home. German, French and Belgian women go to the Netherlands for the same reason. Growing numbers of women from the south of France are traveling to Spain, which in 20 years has gone from having the tightest abortion controls in Europe to among the loosest.

As women were crossing borders for the procedure for much of the 1990s, governments preferred to ignore the phenomenon.

But as the 15-member European Union moves toward a single currency, loosens border controls even more and debates accepting new members from Eastern and Central Europe, the issue of cross-border abortion is likely to generate more concern.

"We are in absolute hypocrisy," said Celia Gabison, a coordinator for the French Family Planning Movement, which provides names of foreign clinics to women over the 10-week limit. "It also creates a social injustice. When you have money, it's easier to find a solution."

It is clear that serving foreign patients is a thriving business. At some clinics in the Netherlands, particularly those specializing in "later-term" abortions, as many as 90 percent of the patients are non-Dutch. Dr. Morin's gleaming, modern clinic in a well-to-do neighborhood of Barcelona is clearly well financed. Patients pay rates depending

See ABORTION, Page 10



Yoshihisa Tani/Agence France Press

The Dollar			
	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
New York	1.7233	1.7225	
DM	1.6333	1.6323	
Pound	1.2540	1.2535	
Yen	125.40	125.35	
FF	5.8155	5.8147	

The Dow			
	Tuesday close	previous close	
+10.83	7225.32	7214.49	
S&P 500			
	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
change	2.63	827.57	830.20

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Crossword	Page 20.
Opinion	Pages 8-9.
Sports	Pages 20-21.
The Internet	Page 6.
The IHT on-line	http://www.ih.com

MARKET EXCITEMENT — A floor trader yawning at the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Tuesday. The Nikkei stock average rose 3.4 percent to a 1997 high. Page 18.

Celtics' Coach: Pitino

Rick Pitino is leaving one of college basketball's most successful programs to coach the National Basketball Association's most storied team — the Boston Celtics. His reported \$70 million, 10-year contract is believed to be the richest for a coach in U.S. sports.

Pitino, who called the Celtics' job "the greatest opportunity ever afforded a coach," announced his decision Tuesday at the University of Kentucky, the school he led to the Final Four three times in his eight years there, winning the national title in 1996. Page 21.

AGENDA

Holocaust Report Criticizes the Swiss

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A U.S. report to be released Wednesday harshly criticizes Switzerland for having the "deepest and most crucial relationship with Nazi Germany" of all neutral countries during World War II, officials said.

The report describes Switzerland as a "reluctant" partner in efforts to negotiate a fair postwar distribution of Nazi assets. But it also targets Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Argentina for their dealings with Nazi Germany. The inquiry also concluded that "neither the U.S. nor the Allies pressed the neutral countries hard enough to fulfill their moral obligation to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing their assets for their benefit."

NATO and Russia Back at the Table

PARIS (NYT) — Negotiations between NATO and Russia in Luxembourg on Tuesday were expected to clarify details of a security charter to govern relations after the Atlantic alliance expands eastward.

Russia last week dropped its demand that NATO set overall limits on the number of weapons an expanded alliance would be permitted to field. NATO agreed, however, to negotiate country-by-country limits instead.

PAGE TWO

Lead's Heritage: Two Very Sick Cities

THE AMERICAS Page 3.

Should a Drunk Driver Be Executed?

The Question Along Loire: What's This Vote About?

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

BLOIS, France — Was President Jacques Chirac clever or foolhardy to ask French voters to give him a new legislative mandate for the economic sacrifices he says are necessary to get France in on a European common currency in 1999?

Here in the Loire Valley chateau country in the heart of France, the euro seems so abstract, and yet so popular, that Mr. Chirac's Socialist opposition is scrambling to frame the election campaign around a different issue: the unpopularity of the conservative prime minister, Alain Juppe.

Maybe this is because the Loire is at the heart of Europe in many ways. Plantagenet and Angevin kings fought over its castles and rich farmlands in medieval times. Joan of Arc drove the English out of Orleans, just upriver, in 1429.

A few kilometers west, Leonardo da Vinci, whose comparisons brought the Renaissance style to France, lies buried in the flamboyant Gothic chapel of the Chateau d'Amboise, where busloads of German, Spanish and British tourists flocked last weekend to pay homage.

The mayor of Blois, Jack Lang, a Socialist member of the European Parliament, had no problem a few weeks ago giving his enthusiastic support to a special promotion by the merchants in the center of town to familiarize their customers with the euro.

"Joining the common European currency is an opportunity," he wrote in his European Parliament newsletter, also noting that the majority of the French have long told poll-takers that they support a strong Europe. "The euro can really speed up our economy and our enterprises, and will let us compete fairly against the dollar and the yen."

Mr. Chirac, who used to be only lukewarm in supporting the Treaty of European Union providing for the new currency, puts the issue almost exactly the same way.

But now the Socialists have backtracked on the euro, demanding a renegotiation of its terms so that France and other European countries can let up on the relentless deficit reduction required for them to join it and try to stimulate creating jobs in an effort to jostle unemployment figures, which have been stuck in the double digits for years.

The French Socialists' allies in the Communist Party oppose the idea of the new currency as a triumph of global

See ALIENS, Page 11

See FRANCE, Page 10

Newstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	11.3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroun	1.800 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Egypt	EE 3.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Italy	2,800 Lire	Spain	225 PTAS
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	Turkey	1,250 Dhs
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dhs
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. M. (Eur.)	\$1.20

This Poisoned Land / Deadly Lead in Russia

Krasnouralsk Is Sick, Very Sick, but the Factories Spew On

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

KRASNOURALSK, Russia — Inside Little Flower School No. 7, preschool children awake from an afternoon nap and scamper about the playroom, the boys happily fastening plastic blocks together, the girls cooking an imaginary lunch over a toy stove.

But the children of Krasnouralsk are ill. They suffer from chronic respiratory ailments, and, according to tests, many of them have high levels of lead in their blood, which can lead to brain damage and behavioral problems.

"People are getting more and more sick every year," said Rima Yermakova, director of the school. "We do what we can. But there is no improvement, and the level of sickness is growing."

Russian analysts say the source of the sickness is the tall smokestacks of the Krasnouralsk Copper Works, a smelter built in the days of Stalin's drive to industrialize the Soviet Union.

For 65 years, the smokestacks have been raining pollution on Krasnouralsk, a town of 33,000 in the heavily industrialized heartland of the Ural Mountains. High levels of lead have accumulated in the soil, tests show, and many young children may already be suffering from lead poisoning.

The town is not alone. A government report published by Russian specialists concluded that lead contamination was blanketing the country, another in a long list of environmental disasters in the former Soviet Union that have been acknowledged in recent years.

"A large part of the territory of Russia is experiencing lead fallout loads that exceed the level critical for the normal functioning of the ecosystem," said the document. The chief source of lead is auto emissions, since half of Russia still uses leaded gasoline, but metals factories, such as the copper smelter, are also a major cause of contamination.

Although the report calls for urgent measures to reduce lead pollution, it comes at a time when Russia's economic crisis has overshadowed environmental concerns. Now in the sixth year of industrial depression, Russia lacks money to clean up the pollution of earlier generations. And if the economy begins to recover and factories go back to work, the pollution is expected to get worse.

The conflict between economic needs and ecological hazards is starkly evident in Krasnouralsk, in pine and birch forests about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Yekaterinburg, the regional capital. The Svyatogor Joint Stock Co., which runs the copper works, is the town's biggest taxpayer and its biggest employer.

Vladimir Gurvich, deputy chief physician of the regional health inspectorate, said the lead contamination was so severe that the town should be evacuated.

"Everyone knows what you have to do," he said. "You can only do one thing with the people — move them out. What does that mean? A population left without work or income? It wouldn't be a problem if it was only one town, but towns like this are many."

He added: "If this situation existed in the West, the factory simply would not operate. It would not be profitable, because of fines it



Children at Little Flower School No. 7 in this factory town are among those who have been exposed to high concentrations of lead. "People are getting more and more sick every year."

would have to pay." But the factory cannot realistically be closed, he said. "The people living on that territory are hostages. They have jobs. The jobs feed them. Where can they go?"

The Krasnouralsk smelter employs 4,500 people and produces 60,000 tons of unfinished

copper a year. Sergei Litovskikh, the general director, said the company had a profit of \$3.6 million last year on sales of \$61.8 million.

But the smelter uses equipment dating back to 1932. Extracting copper from the ore releases dangerous elements, including lead and gases.

New antipollution equipment is to be installed later this year, but in the meantime the factory is spewing about 150 tons of lead into the air each year.

THE COMPANY takes some responsibility for the town's plight, Mr. Litovskikh said, but the whole region is polluted. "It's a problem, but not only the factory is to blame. There are other factories."

Tests show the soil is badly polluted. Vyacheslav Lupinin, chief physician of the town's health inspectorate, said soil sampling at 27 locations showed lead levels far in excess of the maximum allowed by Russian standards. The soil samples are important because experts believe children often absorb lead from playing outside and from eating foods grown in contaminated soil.

In recent months, health specialists have started to measure the effects here of lead poisoning, which often does not have immediate symptoms. Lead poisoning is especially risky for young children, since it affects the developing brain and nervous system. In October, a study was begun on about 180 Krasnouralsk children. It checked their overall medical conditions, their blood

lead levels and their mental abilities. "We concluded these children were in poor health," said Larissa Privalova, deputy director of the Regional Center for Environmental Epidemiology, who oversaw the research. "And those with a lot of lead are in poorer health."

Digging Up 100 Years of Pollution in Idaho

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Service

SMELTERVILLE, Idaho — Say something stupid in this town, and you are apt to be accused of being "leaded." That is how locals attempt to laugh off the effects of lead poisoning, an all-too-serious threat in a community that has recorded some of the highest blood-lead levels ever measured in humans.

For nearly a century, a perpetual coating of toxic lead dust covered this former mining capital like a gritty blanket. It spilled from the dozens of lead mines that pock the nearby hillsides and it spewed from the unfiltered stacks at the local smelting factory. Some of it seeped into the bones of workers like Sylvia Sjogren, a grandmother and former smelter worker whose blood-lead level soared to 10 times the level considered tolerable.

"To the company we were just thumbtacks on a wall," Ms. Sjogren said of the bankrupt Texas corporation that ran the smelter. "We were not families or faces or communities."

The smelter has been demolished, and the town's contaminated soil is being hauled away in a gargantuan, federally run recovery effort. But the region's mammoth lead problem — and the equally massive legal battle over the cleanup — gets bigger and more confusing each day.

New cases of lead damage are popping up like ironweed across Idaho's history-scarred Silver Valley, while efforts to remove the contaminants become further mired in lawsuits and court-

tersuits over who should pay. The legal wrangling is being watched not only by Idahoans, but by national groups that say the Silver Valley experience embodies much of what is wrong with the country's so-called Superfund hazardous-waste cleanup program.

Created 17 years ago during the outcry over New York's Love-Canal disaster, the Superfund program is a \$1.4 billion-a-year bureaucracy charged with cleaning up hundreds of contaminated sites nationwide. Critics say the program is slow and spends more money on lawyers' fees than on actual cleanup. Though reforms are under way, the nearly 1,400 sites on the Superfund list will take an average of 12 years each to restore and will involve about 70,000 lawyers in all.

A sizable chunk of those lawyers have found profitable work in Silver Valley, where cleanup of the nation's second-largest Superfund site was delayed for a decade by lawsuits and a maze of engineering studies.

Since the actual cleanup began in 1992, workers have demolished the old smelting plant and removed contaminated dirt from schools, churches and hundreds of private lawns in Smelterville and four other villages inside a 21-square-mile (55-square-kilometer) cleanup zone. Dubbed the Bunker Hill Superfund site, after the local 1885 silver mine that solidified the valley's reputation, it is one of a few Superfund sites to encompass residential housing — and the only one with a functioning ski resort.

This summer, the cleanup is to enter a new phase with the excavation of 2 million cubic

yards (1.5 million cubic meters) of contaminated earth from a flood plain along the Coeur d'Alene River. The dirt will be cased in plastic and piled on top of a mountain of mine tailings and toxic smelter slag that runs for a full mile along the Interstate 90 highway.

A final challenge will be to delead houses and buildings and stabilize the steep, barren slopes of the mountains that surround the town. After nearly a century of dumping and smelting, the lead-tainted hillsides are so acidic that virtually nothing will grow on them.

But while the cleanup of the Superfund site is progressing mostly on schedule, the briefcase wars are heating up again following discoveries of contamination far beyond its boundaries. The surviving mining companies, after agreeing to pay \$40 million toward the federal cleanup, have been hit in recent months by a new spate of lawsuits from the Justice Department, environmental groups, American Indians and even neighboring Washington state.

Driving the litigation is the growing awareness of the enormous scale of the Silver Valley's toxic-waste problem. With each rainfall, heavy metals are flushed from countless piles of lead tailings into creeks and rivers, which then ferry them downstream toward the population centers of Coeur d'Alene and Spokane, Washington.

On a single day of flooding last February, federal engineers say, 1 million pounds (450,000 kilograms) of lead washed into Lake Coeur d'Alene, a popular resort area that now wears a permanent foot-deep carpet of metallic sludge.

Hamas Chief, Freed by U.S. And Deported, Will Battle On

Reuters

AMMAN — Mousa Abu Marzook, political leader of the militant Palestinian movement Hamas, pledged Tuesday to continue to work for the organization now that he has been released after nearly two years in a New York jail on suspicion of terrorism.

Mr. Marzook was deported Monday, and flown to Jordan aboard a U.S. military jet.

"I will continue in political activities," he said at his home in Amman. "Naturally the motives that made me stand with the hopes and aspirations of my people still exist. I still have a lot to do to serve my people and help them achieve their aspirations."

An Embarrassing Case

His release ended what had become an embarrassing case for both the United States and Israel. The New York Times reported. Both countries sought to keep him in jail but could not come up with persuasive evidence of his complicity in a series of violent attacks by Hamas.

In an unusual agreement, Mr. Marzook relinquished his permanent-resident status in the United States and said he would not contest the terrorism accusations that prompted his initial detention. In exchange, the United States released him from solitary confinement and allowed him to go to Jordan.

Mr. Marzook was detained in July 1995 at Kennedy Airport in New York because his name was on a U.S. "watch list" of people suspected of terrorist activities.

He was never linked to any specific terrorist act, and he insisted that his fund-raising activities were separate from Hamas attacks.

His release followed complex negotiations between his lawyers and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service over how the allegations would be handled.

Under the agreement signed April 25, both sides agreed to withhold comment until he arrived in Jordan, which announced last week that it would accept him.

As soon as the plane landed, Mr. Marzook's lawyers and American officials offered sharply differing assessments of the deal.

"He refused to admit to the charges because they are false and baseless," Michael Kennedy, a lawyer for Mr. Marzook, said.

The United States, on the other hand, said it believed that by pleading no contest to the terrorism charges, Mr. Marzook had not cleared his name. "The United States government considered him deportable for engaging in terrorist activities," said Russell Bergeron Jr., a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The deal to release Mr. Marzook was the same one he offered after U.S. authorities detained him in 1995.

Soon after his detention, Israel requested his extradition, saying it wanted to try him on charges of helping to raise money for and directing a series of bloody attacks for which responsibility was claimed by the military wing of Hamas.

Mr. Marzook insisted that he had no connection with violence and that the money he raised supported projects such as clinics.

Israel dropped the extradition request last month, saying a trial would disturb the already beleaguered Middle East peace talks and open Israel to further attacks. But Mr. Marzook's lawyers said Israel did not have enough evidence for a trial and had acted out of fear that it would lose a high-profile case.

In January, Mr. Marzook stunned Israel and the United States by saying he would no longer fight extradition and would be willing to face trial.

When Israel decided not to try him, the search was on for a country that would accept him. The United States, which in early 1995 pressed Jordan to expel him, reversed itself and urged Jordan to take him back.

Israeli officials said they welcomed the decision by King Hussein to take him.

The Tobacco Verdict: Jury Saw Smoking as a Personal Choice

By Donald P. Baker
Washington Post Service

JACKSONVILLE, Florida — The jury that ruled in a closely watched smoker's liability case here accepted the arguments of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. that the second-largest American tobacco company was not responsible for the lung cancer death of a longtime customer.

The six-member jury deliberated eight hours before returning the unanimous verdict in a case that could influence the mounting legal challenges to the tobacco industry and the negotiations to settle those cases out of court.

The verdict prompted praise from the tobacco industry and disappointment from anti-smoking advocates. But analysts predicted the decision would have little impact on tobacco litigation overall and might help push both sides toward a negotiated settlement.

"I think this is a plus for the settlement talks," said Diana Temple, a

tobacco analyst for Salomon Brothers Inc. The verdict should help even the strength of the negotiating positions of the two sides by slowing the momentum of anti-smoking advocates, she said.

The panel of three nonsmokers, two former smokers and a lone, occasional smoker found that R. J. Reynolds was not negligent and that its Salem cigarettes were not "unreasonably dangerous and defective and a legal cause of the death" of Jean Connor, who smoked two to three packs of Salem cigarettes a day for more than two decades.

Mrs. Connor's family, which pursued the suit she filed six months before her death on Oct. 1, 1995, at age 49, sat in stunned silence as a clerk read the verdict. Later, outside the courtroom, family members said they were bitterly disappointed.

"It's like watching her die all over again," said Dana Raulerson, Mrs. Connor's sister, fighting back tears. "And there's still an industry that

doesn't care that she's dead because of their product. I don't know how they sleep at night."

After reading their verdict, members of the jury told Judge Bernard Nachman that they did not want to discuss their decision with reporters. They were escorted from the packed courtroom by their cars by uniformed sheriff's deputies.

A lawyer for Reynolds, Paul Crist, said the verdict meant that "cigarette smoking, no matter what label is applied, is very much a matter of personal choice."

Daniel Donahue, the top Reynolds executive at the trial, credited the outcome to the aggressive posture the company displayed by emphasizing that the dangers of smoking are common knowledge and that individuals continue to use cigarettes at their own peril.

Miss Temple predicted that the verdict would discourage other smokers from suing cigarette manufacturers and that the industry would prevail in a

class-action suit scheduled for trial June 2 in Miami. That case was filed by flight attendants against several tobacco companies over the effects of second-hand smoke.

Melissa Roman, a consultant to the Wall Street tobacco analyst Gary Black of Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., said that while lawyers for Mrs. Connor "presented a strong case and proved what they had to prove — that their client died of lung cancer caused by cigarette smoking," the jurors sided with Reynolds because Mrs. Connor "didn't try to quit."

"People believe in personal choice," she said.

Nuss Roman, an observer throughout the monthlong trial, added that "people were wrong" when they thought a \$750,000 verdict last year in the same courthouse against Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. represented "a sea change" in attitude toward cigarette companies. She predicted that plaintiffs will win "maybe one in five times" in

future cases against tobacco companies.

"It's a huge victory," said David Adelman, a tobacco industry analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds. "It means the world hasn't changed, and jurors are still reluctant to give money to someone who is, quote-unquote, too addicted to quit."

One difference between the Reynolds case and the verdict last year was the smoking behavior of the plaintiffs.

Mrs. Connor, in videotaped testimony taken shortly before her death, admitted that she "knew smoking was hazardous" to her health. She never tried to quit smoking until three weeks before she went for a physical examination in preparation for plastic surgery and was told she had cancer.

In contrast, Grady Carter, the air traffic controller who sued Brown & Williamson, testified that his addiction to cigarettes was so strong he had tried everything from hypnosis to a nicotine patch to stop smoking.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Transport Strikes Due in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — A series of work stoppages announced by rail, subway and bus workers this week will severely disrupt Greece's transport services.

Trains stopped running at noon Tuesday and are not due to resume for the next two days.

The Athens subway will be operating with restricted services on Wednesday and Friday, with trains running from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., while the city's trolley drivers will hold a six-hour work stoppage beginning 10 A.M. on Friday.

Olympic Airways employees have joined the wave of strikes with announced work stoppages May 12 and 19. Pilots, technicians, ground staff and flight attendants held rolling work stoppages Monday, causing many flights to be delayed or canceled.

Italy's railworkers will hold a 48-hour work stoppage starting May 19, union sources said Tuesday. The strike will begin at 9 P.M. (APF)

American Airlines pilots have approved a new five-year contract brokered by the White House, ending the threat of a strike against the second-largest U.S. airline. (WP)

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SOUNDS
The Jazzman who took on Bach
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WEATHER

Europe				Asia			
City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	64/84	43/63	125/3	Amoy	14/57	8/41	19/58
Amsterdam	22/71	54/68	25/77	Bangkok	29/88	22/77	35/91
Ankara	24/75	10/51	25/77	Beijing	14/57	7/41	20/78
Athens	14/57	8/41	15/58	Bombay	32/56	23/75	38/53
Berlin	24/75	10/51	25/77	Calcutta	35/55	27/71	35/53
Buenos Aires	84/98	50/72	11/52	Chongming	24/75	18/42	24/78
Buenos Aires	10/50	2/35	10/50	Colombo	29/88	24/75	35/53
Cape Town	19/58	8/41	15/58	Hanoi	24/75	18/42	24/78
Dublin	54/68	35/53	11/52	Ho Chi Minh	24/75	18/42	24/78
Edinburgh	54/68	35/53	11/52	Islamabad	24/75	18/42	24/78
Geneva	18/54	8/41	15/58	Jakarta	24/75	18/42	24/78
Hamburg	18/54	8/41	15/58	Karachi	31/58	22/71	35/53
London	24/75	10/51	25/77	Kuala Lumpur	31/58	22/71	35/53
Madrid	24/75	10/51	25/77	Manila	31/58	22/71	35/53
Moscow	18/54	8/41	15/58	Medan	31/58	22/71	35/53
Mumbai	24/75	10/51	25/77	Montevideo	31/58	22/71	35/53
Nairobi	24/75	10/51	25/77	New Delhi	31/58	22/71	35/53
Paris	24/75	10/51	25/77	Phnom Penh	31/58	22/71	35/53
Rangoon	24/75	10/51	25/77	Port of Spain	31/58	22/71	35/53
Rio de Janeiro	24/75	10/51	25/77	Shanghai	24/75	18/42	24/78
Sao Paulo	24/75	10/51	25/77	Singapore	31/58	22/71	35/53
Seoul	24/75	10/51	25/77	Taipei	24/75	18/42	24/78
Stockholm	24/75	10/51	25/77	Tokyo	24/75	18/42	24/78
Taipei	24/75	10/51	25/77	Yokohama	24/75	18/42	24/78
Tel Aviv	24/75	10/51	25/77				
Yokohama	24/75	10/51	25/77				

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THE AMERICAS

Jury in North Carolina Weighs Death Penalty for a Drunken Driver

By Kevin Sack
New York Times Service

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina — For more than 16 years, ever since he lost part of his left leg in a lawn mower accident, Thomas Richard Jones has popped narcotic painkillers like jelly beans. Often he chased the pills down with streams of beer.

Warnings from doctors and his mother did not stop Mr. Jones from mixing the combustible components. Neither did a string of convictions for driving while impaired.

Last Sept. 4, his habit turned lethal when Mr. Jones, high on pills and beer, veered his Nissan Altima at 45 miles an hour into the side of an oncoming car. The crash killed two young women — 19-year-old sorority sisters at Wake Forest University — and injured four others.

Now in a landmark trial, a jury here is considering whether Mr. Jones deserves to die for his negligence.

On Friday, the jury convicted him of first-degree murder in the deaths of the two girls. Experts on capital punishment said the trial seemed to be the first in the country in which prosecutors have sought the death penalty in a drunken driving-related case.

As the penalty phase of the trial began Monday, Mr. Jones took the stand and described a life marked by painful injuries, habitual alcoholism, drug addiction and repeated scrapes with the law — at least three other times for driving while impaired, as well as for drug possession, spousal abuse and solicitation of prostitution. He knew he should not have been mixing alcohol, prescription drugs and driving, he said, and he was "sorry somebody had to die."

Addressing the parents of Maia Witzel, a sophomore from Arlington, Texas, who aspired to a career in law, and Julie Hansen, a sophomore from Rockville, Maryland, who wanted to be a doctor, he added, "I know they're with Jesus."

The novel theory posed by prosecutors here, in which a driver's negligence substitutes for any clear intent to kill, illustrates just how far the legal and social movement against drunken driving has advanced in the last decade. During that period, politicians and law enforcement officials have shown increasing intolerance for behavior that, not so long ago, often merited little more than a slap on the wrist.

While it is doubtful that existing death penalty statutes would allow capital prosecutions for

drunken driving homicides in every state, similar cases are pending elsewhere in North Carolina and in Kentucky, and the Jones case is being watched closely there.

Prosecutors here said they believed that their theory might be applicable in 15 to 20 states. "Everybody needs to wake up and realize that these things don't just happen by accident," said

dilute its significance as a punishment for the very worst crimes. They said that regular use of the death penalty in drunken driving homicides would tie up cases in appeals, increase the risk of capricious and arbitrary sentencing and might constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

"If you can impose the death penalty in a case like this, you've pretty much lost any basis for limiting the death penalty to the most heinous crimes and the most incorrigible defendants," said Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, a group in Atlanta that

monitors death penalty cases. Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, questioned whether the death penalty would be pursued against "every drunk-driving white-collar bureaucrat or lawyer who gets involved in one of these."

He added, "I don't think it's likely to be applied uniformly." Even the parents of the girls who lost their lives do not want Mr. Jones to lose his. All four parents said in interviews that they were pleased that Mr. Jones was convicted of first-degree murder, but that they hoped the jury sentenced him to life in prison without parole rather than to death.

"We would rather he have to live, to try to get through each day as her father and I must do," said Joy Witzel, the mother of Maia.

Both sets of parents described their daughters as believers in forgiveness. "Julie was not a vengeful person," said Barbara Hansen, whose daughter had been a member of Students Against Drunk Driving. "She was kind and loving and giving. I'm sure she has already forgiven him."

Mr. Jones's blood-alcohol level measured .051 when he was tested 90 minutes after the crash. North Carolina law defines legal intoxication as .08 or higher. But he also had taken a number of prescription drugs, including Fioricet and Percocet, both of which are strong painkillers, and Xanax, an anti-depressant.

Mr. Rabil prosecuted Mr. Jones under North Carolina's felony-murder statute. That allows the death penalty when a murder with a deadly weapon, whether premeditated or not, is committed in the course of another felony. In this instance, Mr. Rabil argued successfully that Mr. Jones's car was a deadly weapon, and that the assaults he committed with his car against the surviving victims were the felonies needed to charge him with first-degree murder in the deaths of Ms. Witzel and Ms. Hansen.

People who drive drunk and recklessly can kill people just as much as they can kill them with a gun or a knife.

Vincent Rabil, the assistant district attorney who is prosecuting Mr. Jones. "People who drive drunk and recklessly can kill people just as much as they can kill them with a gun or a knife."

But several experts on capital punishment have criticized the pursuit of the death penalty in the case, saying it opens the door to capital prosecutions for crimes that traditionally have not been considered severe enough to merit the ultimate penalty. They predict that Mr. Jones's conviction would be vulnerable in the appellate courts.

Defense lawyers and law professors said that a death sentence for Mr. Jones would broaden the application of the penalty so much that it would

Gun Lobby Survives Rebellion by Militants

New 'Mainstream' Slate to Lead the NRA

By William Claiborne
Washington Post Service

SEATTLE — The National Rifle Association has ended one of the fiercest internal power struggles in its 126-year history by turning back a challenge from insurgents who sought more militancy in the leadership of the powerful gun-rights lobbying group.

The vote for officers by the NRA's 76-member board of directors Monday at the association's annual meeting here was a clear victory for the group's executive vice president, Wayne LaPierre Jr., who campaigned as a "mainstream" advocate of the Second Amendment's right to bear arms against what he characterized as an attempt by rightist anti-government radicals to take over the association.

Mr. LaPierre, 42, appeared set to be returned to the \$190,000-a-year post he has held since 1991 as the NRA's chief operating officer, while the candidates he backed for other leadership positions easily defeated those who were supported by dissidents who accused him of inept leadership and financial mismanagement at a time when the association's assets and membership have been declining.

Charlton Heston, the actor, who has become almost as famous as a spokesman in NRA advertising as for his earlier screen roles as Moses and Ben Hur, narrowly ousted the association's hard-line first vice president, Neal Knox, 62, on a 38-to-34 vote. Mr. Knox had led the divisive, yearlong campaign to replace Mr. LaPierre and the other incumbent officers.

The internal struggle had threatened to weaken the association, widely regarded as Washington's most powerful

lobby, and diminish its clout with the members of Congress who have benefited from its political largesse.

Mr. LaPierre's candidacy received a major boost when Mr. Heston, one of his most ardent backers, was elected to an at-large seat on the board with 74 percent of the vote.

Mr. Heston said that a victory by Mr. Knox and his supporters could "reduce the NRA to kind of a sideshow on the radical fringe of the American scene."

In an interview on the eve of Monday's vote, Mr. LaPierre said the NRA had reached a "watershed moment" at which its members would have to choose between mainstream strategies for defending the Second Amendment right to bear arms and the "fringe" ideology of radical anti-government militias.

■ Armed: 1 in 3 Households

A new Justice Department survey says that more than one of every three U.S. households owns firearms, but that the number of gun owners may not be as widespread as previously thought.

About 44 million Americans owned 192 million firearms in 1994, including 65 million pistols and revolvers, according to the study completed for the National Institute of Justice.

The survey of 2,568 adults, described as one of the most comprehensive assessments of firearms ownership ever completed, found that 35 percent of U.S. households and 25 percent of all adults owned guns.

And more often than not, those who owned firearms were likely to possess more than one. Nearly three-quarters of gun owners had two or more, primarily for protection against crime, the study found.

But while the report showed that firearms ownership was commonplace, it held that "the proportion of American households that keep firearms appears to be declining."

Polls dating to 1959 showed that about half of U.S. households possessed guns. Research this decade shows the percentage of households with guns hovering from 38 percent to 43 percent.



Martin Cash, center, being greeted by Charles Tomlin, left, and Roy Sells at the federal courthouse in Denver where Timothy McVeigh is being tried. All three men lost family members in the bombing.

Cult Deaths Angered McVeigh, Sister Says

By Lois Romano
Washington Post Service

DENVER — The younger sister of Timothy McVeigh, the defendant in the Oklahoma City bombing trial, has testified that Mr. McVeigh was "very angry" over the 1993 government assault on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, and that he felt "someone should be held accountable" for the sect members who died.

"He thought the government murdered the people there," Jennifer McVeigh said.

He also told her five months before the Oklahoma bombing on April 19, 1995, in which 168 people were killed that he was no longer in the "propaganda stage" but in the "action stage," she testified.

The 23-year-old college student

from Lockport, New York, has been a staunch defender of Mr. McVeigh, 29, since his arrest two years ago. She testified for the government Monday under a grant of immunity. Her testimony is largely being used to bolster the contention that Mr. McVeigh detonated a huge bomb in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building out of an escalating hatred for the government.

Ms. McVeigh told jurors that her brother had written a hostile letter to the American Legion on her computer in which he referred to agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as "fascist tyrants" who are "infamous" for depriving citizens of their rights.

She spoke of her brother's increasingly secretive behavior before the blast and his use of aliases and disguises. She identified several cryptic

notes Mr. McVeigh had sent her in 1995 advising her to call him only from a pay phone and to "keep an eye out" for private investigators, adding that "they'll more likely be looking for me, and they don't follow the rules." She also confirmed another note from her brother that read, "Won't be back for... ever."

She testified that Mr. McVeigh had told her he had almost gotten into an accident while transporting explosives in 1994. When Ms. McVeigh said that she did not recall the quantity of explosives her brother was transporting, the prosecutor, Beth Wilkinson, said that Ms. McVeigh had told the FBI it was 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms).

Ms. McVeigh smiled at her brother at least twice during her testimony, while he watched her intently. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

POLITICAL NOTES

No News: Bad News

WASHINGTON — There's a whole lot of journalistic moaning these days about the lack of news. If you define news as congressional hearings, Supreme Court rulings and NATO expansion, that might be true.

What's really behind the whining is that the political world has been moving at a molasses-like pace. The campaign season is over. President Bill Clinton's second term has been a snooze, and the Republican Congress is floundering.

"News stopped happening, oh, a good two or three months ago," Michael Wines said in The New York Times.

At the heart of this debate is the reality that newspapers and the evening TV newscasts were outpaced long ago by faster media outlets. Since their "news" is now outdated, they are struggling for a new definition, one that encompasses the sorts of subjects — health and consumer news, crime, celebrity gossip — that engage ordinary folks. (Howard Kurtz, WP)

Affirmative Action

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration will announce a new approach in the awarding of government contracts that may end race-based preferences for some minority-owned businesses while making available billions of dollars in federal contracts for others, officials said. The effort reflects a commitment to preserve some affirmative action programs while complying with court rulings that severely limit them. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

David Kendall, the private lawyer for Hillary Rodham Clinton, on reports of discrepancies in White-water testimony by the first lady: "It's simply not true that her testimony has changed over time in any material way. That her testimony may differ in some respects from that of other witnesses is neither surprising nor significant." (AP)

School Board Backs Off on Ebonics

By Peter Applebome
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Four months after Oakland, California, became the nation's first school district to declare that blacks speak a separate language called ebonics, the Oakland schools task force studying the subject has come up with final recommendations in a report that does not mention ebonics at all.

The report, a detailed proposal to spend \$2 million over five years to help improve the English skills of black students, is an attempt to put the recommendations adopted by the school board last December into practice.

It is not clear how much the final

document reflects a backing away from the original plan to help students learn English by instructing teachers in ebonics, described as a separate language spoken by many black Americans, and how much is just a more politic wording of the original proposal.

But school board members say the report is a more carefully worded attempt to reach the original goals of greatly improving the language skills of African-American children. The proposed program awaits a vote by the school board, which is to be given the report at its meeting Wednesday.

"I think they're trying to be very careful," said the Oakland School Board's president, Jean Quan. "They're probably trying to clear

things up and stay away from any indication that they're going for bilingual funds. And it may have also been an emotional decision. I think they took so much ribbing for this they may have just backed down."

The word ebonics is not mentioned in the 17 pages of the report. The only mention of the uproar over ebonics comes in a covering letter from the Oakland superintendent of schools, Carolyn Gettridge.

The resolution sought to establish a policy that would link learning success with the students' mastery of Standard English," she wrote. "But in stating this linkage, the intent of the resolution and policy became lost in controversy over terms such as 'genetically based' and references to ebonics as a primary language of African-American students."

The original resolution, unanimously passed with little review by the board of the 52,000-student district, said all teachers should be trained to respect the language spoken by many black students.

The resolution was later toned down, and some of the more provocative language, like an assertion that African language systems are "genetically based," was removed. Supporters of the resolution said references to genetics referred to language groups, not to human genetics, and did not mean to imply that blacks are genetically equipped with a particular language.

Fuhrman Lied About Racist Attacks, But Degraded Women, Report Finds

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Service

LOS ANGELES — A long-delayed report on the Los Angeles Police Department has dismissed as fabrications most of the claims made by Mark Fuhrman, a former detective, that he engaged in brutal and racist treatment of suspects but confirmed that an organized anti-women group of officers had existed within the department.

The outgoing chief of the department, Willie Williams, said Mr. Fuhrman's accounts were "bigger, bloodier, and more violent than the facts." Mr. Williams, a black who replaced Daryl Gates, a white, as chief after the 1992 riots, has said that there should be "zero tolerance" for any officers who engage in discrimination or use excessive force. The rioting followed the ac-

quittal of four white police officers in the beating of a black motorist.

The report found that a "hostile working environment" for women existed for 10 years at the West Los Angeles Police Station where Mr. Fuhrman said he belonged to a group called "Men Against Women."

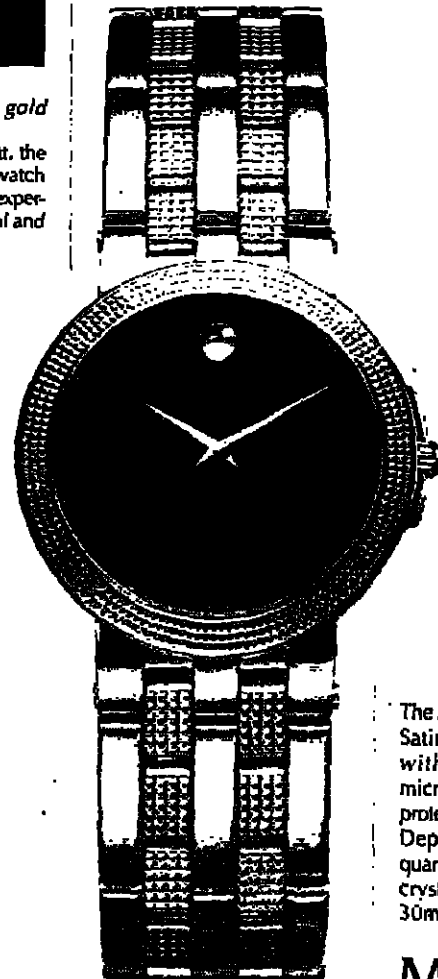
The report made 15 recommendations to improve conditions within the department, most of them directed at sex discrimination.

It examined 29 "issues," as it called Mr. Fuhrman's accounts to Laura Hart McKinny, a screenwriter, of events he said he took part in as a detective. It found 17 of them were fabrications, some "judicious," and the 12 others exaggerated. Mr. Fuhrman's claims were a focus of the trial of O. J. Simpson, who was accused of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.



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ASIA/PACIFIC

Japanese Visit to Isle Angers Chinese

Tokyo Regrets Lawmaker's Stop; Beijing and Taipei Complain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Declaring it a duty to inspect his nation's territory, a Japanese legislator traveled Tuesday to the islands at the center of a dispute among Japan, China and Taiwan.

The visit provoked the anger of the governments in Beijing and Taipei, and the Japanese government quickly distanced itself from the visit.

The rocky, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea are known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

"After landing on Senkaku today, I was convinced of the revival of a proud Japan, and an awakening in people's consciousness definitely begins here," Shingo Nishimura, a lawmaker of the main opposition New Frontier Party, said in a statement.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the landing was regrettable. The chief government spokesman, Seiroku Kajiyama, urged calm, acknowledging that the visit might hurt Japan-China relations, the Kyodo news agency reported.

China called the landing a serious infringement of Chinese sovereignty and said that expressing regret was not enough.

"We demand that Japan takes effective steps to dispel the bad con-

sequences and negative effects this has caused," said Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"This incident will definitely affect the normal development of Chinese-Japanese ties," he said.

In Taipei, the Foreign Ministry expressed "grave concern" about Mr. Nishimura's visit.

"We urge Japan to exercise self-restraint and not to create any trouble that will affect our friendly relations," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Roy Wu, said at a news conference.

More than a dozen Hong Kong activists protested outside Japan's consulate in the colony's financial district to condemn the landing on the islands. They said it represented a revival of Japanese militarism.

Mr. Nishimura stayed for about two hours on the islands and left on a small fishing boat, according to Hiroaki Udetu of the Maritime Safety Agency, the coast guard of Japan.

Shintaro Ishihara, a former transport minister and author of "The Japan That Can Say No," slowly circled the islands on a separate ship but did not land, the Japanese coast guard said.

The islands are a volatile issue because China and other Asian nations hold bitter memories of Japan's aggres-

sion during World War II and are extremely wary of any signs of what they consider to be ultranationalism coming from Tokyo.

The dispute over the islands resurfaced when rightist extremists built a lighthouse on the islands last summer. Demonstrators protested the action by taking to the streets in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The Chinese government accused Japan of using the dispute as an excuse to build up its military. Last year, a Hong Kong activist drowned after jumping into waters near the islands off one of several protest boats from Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The islands, 175 kilometers (110 miles) north of Taiwan — lie amid rich fishing grounds and possible oil and natural gas deposits.

Japanese government officials do not expect China to resort to military action to take over Senkaku. But conservative Japanese, such as Mr. Ishihara, have been annoyed that Washington has not tried to resolve the dispute.

The islands were administered by the Japanese from 1895 to 1945, when they were taken over by U.S. forces after World War II.

Washington gave them back to Japan in 1972.



Japanese walking the beach Tuesday on one of the islands that are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

Accused Seoul Spy To Admit His Guilt

Reduced Charge Leads to Accord

By Brooke A. Masters
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON

Robert Kim, the former naval computer specialist charged with spying for South Korea, is expected to change his plea to guilty Wednesday, federal court and FBI officials said.

Prosecutors and Mr. Kim's attorneys would not comment on details of the plea agreement they said they had reached.

But federal officials said Mr. Kim, who pleaded not guilty in March to three counts of giving defense information to a foreign government, was scheduled to plead guilty to a less serious espionage charge of gathering, transmitting or losing defense information.

Under the original indictment, Mr. Kim, 57, faced the possibility of life in prison. The lesser charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Mr. Kim, a civilian analyst with the Office of Naval Intelligence, was arrested in September and charged with using a computer system at his agency to gather classified information on North and

South Korea, China, and on a computerized maritime tracking system.

Prosecutors allege that he gave seven defense documents classified as "secret" or "confidential" to a South Korean Navy officer.

A guilty plea would allow prosecutors to claim a victory in the most serious rash of American spying cases since Aldrich Ames was convicted in 1994 of spying for Moscow.

In a four-month span last year, officials arrested Mr. Kim, a former CIA case officer, Harold James Nicholson, a former FBI counterintelligence agent, Earl Edwin Pitts.

Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Pitts have pleaded guilty to spying for Moscow.

They face sentencing next month.

Plea agreements often represent the best possible outcome for the government in spying cases, analysts said.

Usually, the defendant agrees to tell the government what secrets got away, and the plea protects the intelligence agencies from having to disclose classified information during a trial.

BRIEFLY

Rao Is Indicted for Vote-Buying

NEW DELHI — A court indicted former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao in a vote-buying case on Tuesday, dealing another legal setback to the embattled politician who quit in disgrace last year as leader of the Congress (I) Party.

Judge A. J. Bharihoke, presiding over a special court of inquiry, ruled that there was sufficient evidence to try Mr. Rao for criminal conspiracy and abetting bribery, according to R. K. Anand, the lawyer for the former prime minister. Both charges carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Mr. Rao is the first Indian prime minister or former prime minister to face criminal charges. Judge Bharihoke scheduled arraignment for May 14, when Mr. Rao and 19 other people accused in the four-year-old case will be asked to enter a plea. (Reuters)

Bangladesh Strike Turns Violent

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh — More than 50 people were wounded in bomb blasts, clashes and an attack on a train during an opposition-led general strike Tuesday in Chittagong port and neighboring areas, the police said.

Supporters of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party exchanged gunfire and fought sporadic battles with supporters of the governing Awami League, the authorities said.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters ransacked railroad offices, damaged a locomotive and attacked an Awami League office in Chittagong, witnesses said.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief, Khalida Zia, called for the dawn-to-dusk strike to protest what she said was "government-led terrorism and the ruling party's subservient policies toward India."

Begum Zia has accused Prime Minister Hasina Wazed of being pro-Indian and jeopardizing Bangladesh's national security. (Reuters)

Taiwan Sets Ties With Sao Tome

TAIPEI — Taiwan said Tuesday that it had established formal ties with West Africa's small twin-island nation of Sao Tome and Principe, scoring a minor victory in its four-decade diplomatic tug-of-war with its archrival, China.

"The Republic of China has established full diplomatic relations with Sao Tome and Principe," Foreign Minister John Chang said at a news conference in Taipei.

A total of 31 countries now maintain official relations with Taiwan, although that number will decline to 30 later this year when South Africa switches ties to Beijing as planned.

The move was sure to anger China, which views Taiwan as a rebel-held province after a civil war split them in 1949 and has warned other countries against forging ties with Taipei. (Reuters)

Sunni Link in Pakistan Killing?

LAHORE, Pakistan — Gunmen killed a senior police officer Tuesday in the Pakistani city of Gujranwala in what the police said might have been revenge for his work in tracking down Sunni Muslim militants.

They said the unidentified attackers ambushed Mohammed Ashraf Marthi, a police superintendent, on his way to work in an official vehicle at about 8:45 A.M.

Mr. Marthi, 35, died along with his driver, Mohammed Tabassum. The assailants escaped in a car, the police said. Police sources said the attack was likely to have been linked to Mr. Marthi's arrest of six Sunni militants in connection with a February assault on the Iranian cultural center in the Punjab city of Multan, where he was then posted.

Eight people, including the center's Iranian director, were killed in the Multan attack, believed to be the work of a militant anti-Shiite group known as Lashkar-i-Jhangvi. (Reuters)

For the Record

Indonesian policemen clashed Tuesday with knife-wielding supporters of the Muslim-oriented United Development Party in Java after detaining a party member campaigning for the May 29 general election. The clash occurred in Panjenek, 60 kilometers southeast of Indonesia's second city, Surabaya. (Reuters)

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2 Euroskeptics
Join Tory Fight

LONDON — Two opponents of British participation in a European single currency joined the Tory Tuesday to lead the defeated Conservative Party.

John Redwood, 45, has been an outspoken opponent of the single currency since he resigned from the cabinet as minister responsible for Wales to challenge John Major, unsuccessfully, for the party leadership in 1995.

Michael Howard, 55, the former home secretary, said he had argued against the single currency in the cabinet, although in public he supported Mr. Major's "wait and see" policy.

Mr. Major announced his resignation Friday following Labour's landslide victory in national elections. Kenneth Clarke, 56, the former chancellor of the exchequer, and Peter Lilley, 53, the former social security secretary, have already joined the race.

Mr. Clarke is an advocate of the European Union. Mr. Lilley is a Euroskeptic. Writing in The Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, Mr. Lilley said the party's new leader faced a daunting task.

"The fact is, we are not liked," he wrote. "We have allowed ourselves to be caricatured as the party of self-interest and greed."

No date has been set for the election. Divisions over European policy were a constant problem for Mr. Major throughout his six and a half years as prime minister.

During the campaign, more than 200 Tory



John Redwood announcing his position.

candidates publicly dissented from his policy of keeping options open on joining a single currency.

When he challenged Mr. Major for the party leadership in 1995, Mr. Redwood ran on a program demanding that British membership in the European single currency be ruled out.

He played the unity card Tuesday at a news conference.

"I don't want a sectional party, a factional party, a party obsessed by only one issue," he said.

"I believe the Conservative Party is a broad church. It must stay a broad church. The trouble is we don't have enough worshippers at the moment." (AP, Reuters)

U.K. Vote Alters Northern Ireland's Outlook

Sinn Fein's Gains Could Help the Peace Process or Embolden IRA Militants

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

BELFAST — The convincing gains made in the British elections last week by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, have changed the face of Northern Ireland. But Sinn Fein's successes have also raised essential questions about the future of the flagging effort to end sectarian violence in this Protestant-dominated British province.

Will the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Sinn Fein and its president, Gerry Adams, who won a seat in the British Parliament in Thursday's election, use their new strength to persuade the IRA to restore the cease-fire that it ended in February 1996?

Will peace talks that are to resume June 3 be rendered useless as they were last year when hundreds of annual Protestant parades through Catholic neighborhoods led to new violence?

Will the new Labour government of Prime Minister Tony Blair take risks that his predecessor, John Major, would not to get Sinn Fein to a negotiating table with the Ulster Unionist Party, the province's largest political group?

Without those two parties, the talks are unlikely to produce anything

beyond the haggling that has characterized them since they began.

Mr. Blair and his new Northern Ireland secretary, Marjorie (Mo) Mowlam, stand firmly behind the basic policies of the departed Conservative government and the Irish government of Prime Minister John Bruton: Sinn Fein will not be allowed at the talks until there is another IRA cease-fire, and there will be no change in the political structure of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority. Northern Ireland is about 60 percent Protestant and is expected to remain so until well into the next century.

In Belfast on Saturday, Ms. Mowlam said again that there must be a new IRA truce.

But if there is, she has given no indication how quickly Britain would allow Sinn Fein to join talks.

Mr. Major, who had been dependent on Protestant Unionist votes in Parliament, was careful not to let Sinn Fein into the talks during the IRA's cease-fire, which lasted 17 months. Mr. Blair could take a chance and bring Mr. Adams to the table within a few weeks of a new truce. But that would have to be done without driving the Ulster Unionist Party out of the negotiations.

The Unionists gained one seat in the new British Parliament, giving

them a total of 10, and their leader, David Trimble, has said he will meet with Sinn Fein only when he is convinced that the IRA's campaign of violence has been permanently ended. His actions depend on how politically strong he feels, and that will be determined in part by how well his party does in Ulster's local elections May 21.

As well as electing Mr. Adams and his deputy, Martin McGuinness, to Parliament, Sinn Fein won 16 percent of the vote in the province, making it the third-strongest party in Northern Ireland, ahead of the hard-line Protestant Democratic Unionist Party of the Reverend Ian Paisley. For some Protestants, that shift raises the dreaded prospect of Northern Ireland eventually splitting from Britain and joining with the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic.

Ulster's second-largest party is the Social Democratic Labour Party, a mainstream Catholic group that says it is ready to meet with Sinn Fein members almost immediately after a new cease-fire. But Mr. Adams has given no indication of his intentions, insisting that the election results gave Sinn Fein a moral and political mandate to be at the talks, cease-fire or no cease-fire.

Over the weekend, he sounded almost belligerent, telling supporters

that there would be no peace settlement before the release of all Republican "political prisoners." Sinn Fein's name for anyone convicted in British or Irish courts and imprisoned for bombings or killing police and army troops.

Paul Arthur, a professor of politics at Ulster University, said it was impossible to know what the IRA leadership and Mr. Adams were thinking. "The gains put Sinn Fein in an awkward position," he said, as the increase in their electoral power could strengthen the argument that political action was preferable to IRA violence.

But IRA commanders could feel that, because the political gains were achieved even as the IRA was continuing its violence here and in England, the new British government should be kept in doubt about when its next attack might come. This is consistent, experts said, with the IRA's core belief that history shows violence to be effective, that the founders of many countries were once considered terrorists by others and that it was IRA violence that got London's and Dublin's peace effort started.

"If Adams and McGuinness can't produce a cease-fire," Mr. Arthur said, "it will demonstrate that their influence counts for very little."

BRIEFLY

Cash-Strapped Romanian Clinic
Buried Infants' Bodies in Tank

Agence France-Presse

CLUJ, Romania — The bodies of 47 infants were stored in formaldehyde in an underground tank at a hospital here in central Romania because the clinic could not afford to bury them, the police said Tuesday.

There are 47 infant corpses, 28 boys and 19 girls between one month and three years old, a police spokesman said. The bodies were stored in formaldehyde in a tank sunk into a pit and topped with a metal cover. The police said the oldest body dated from 1990.

Doctors at the hospital said they had taken "perfectly legal" measures to preserve the corpses because there was no money available to bury the children properly.

They said the clinic lacked adequate refrigeration facilities to store the bodies.

Local authorities in Cluj, however, insisted that the hospital budget included funding for burying those without means.

Romanian law requires parental consent before children who die in hospitals can be buried, but many of the babies had been abandoned at the clinic shortly after birth.

So far, only corpses with hospital-issued identity bracelets have been identified, the spokesman said.

"This business is macabre, but completely legal," a Health Ministry official said. "Cluj hospital did not have the necessary structures. Others do."

Police who are investigating have sealed off the tank area.

Meeting on Nazi Gold Is Urged

LONDON — Britain on Tuesday offered to sponsor an international conference aimed at resolving the questions surrounding gold seized by Nazi Germany in World War II.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said there were strong reasons to consider compensating victims of Nazi persecution or their descendants.

Mr. Cook, who took office last week after the Labour Party swept elections in Britain, said the Foreign Office would consult organizations in Britain and abroad about how to convene an international conference.

The Tripartite Commission, set up in 1946 and run by Britain, France and the United States to restore looted wealth to its rightful owners, has always maintained that the gold it is holding was looted from the central banks of countries occupied by the Nazis. But Jewish groups contend that 5 to 10 percent of the wealth belonged to private individuals.

"It is clear that some gold taken from individual victims of Nazi persecution may have found its way into the pool," Mr. Cook said. "This strengthens the case for looking imaginatively for ways of compensating victims or their direct descendants." (Reuters)

U.S. Digs Deep for Foreign Aid

PARIS — The United States recovered its rank among the leading donors of nonmilitary aid last year by climbing back from fourth place in 1995, an American aid official said Tuesday.

"The United States and Japan will be No. 1 and 2, and we don't know in what order," said Brian Atwood, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

U.S. overseas development assistance, which does not include food aid, financing for the Peace Corps or aid to newly independent states, reached about \$9.1 billion last year, "maybe more," he said.

The United States fell to fourth place in 1995, after Japan, Germany and France, when U.S. aid was slashed to \$7.3 billion. (Reuters)

For the Record

A strike by French truck drivers eased Tuesday, a day after a union official was killed when he was crushed under the wheels of a truck. Bordeaux was the only area still affected by blockades. Unions called the strike Monday for one day to press the government to put in place benefits won in a 12-day strike last fall. (AP)

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INTERNATIONAL

Scavengers Chip Away Prague's Gothic Glories

Patrols Set Up to Guard Charles Bridge Statues

By Christine Spolar
Washington Post Service

PRAGUE — St. Christopher, the patron saint of travelers, is up the river without an ear. St. Joseph has lost his gilded lily. The Pieta is mournful, perhaps in part because it is missing a golden lantern, circa 1859. The Crucifixion stands tragically — with only one bony claw left of the 40-pound gold eagle that once graced its base.

Both time and man have taken a toll on the Charles Bridge, but it seems man has been stuffing his pockets. The Gothic glories of Prague are being eroded by thieves and tourists.

Nearly half the statues on Charles Bridge are missing a stone finger, a golden front or man-made halo. So susceptible to scavengers is the 14th-century sandstone bridge that it is now under the watch of the Union of Artists, which provides almost around-the-clock patrols.

Volunteers stroll across the span of the Vltava River — known in the West by its German name, the Moldau — every day on the lookout for pilferers. On what curators here call crisis days — New Year's Eve, for instance — each of the 32 statues has two volunteers posted at its base.

"It's a very big problem, and every person who comes to Prague — that's 80 million people in the past four years — walks over the Charles Bridge," said Alexander Kohak, coordinator of the security effort. "We're watching for thieves, but there's also some basic education to do. We have to tell people: 'Don't sit on the statues. They're a national treasure.'"

There is temptation on nearly every block of a city studied with crosses, orbis, spires and steeples. More than 500 statues, monuments and plaques are registered with the Gallery of Prague, which monitors and maintains the works of art. Of those, about two-thirds are in parks or open spaces.

Petty thievery, of course, is a problem in any major city. But the end of Communist rule and changing market conditions that sent prices of bronze, gold and copper soaring here, put the fear of God, so to speak, in those who want the saints preserved.

Scrap dealers say prices for metals have jumped ninefold since 1989. Under the Communists, the state regulated prices and kept them so low that a pound of copper would be worth a few pennies. Today, the same scrap would be worth about a dollar.

Some of the cruelest indignities to the

Charles Bridge happened soon after price controls ended. The Crucifixion lost its golden eagle to a nighttime thief in 1991. But the weight of the bird apparently undid the thief. An employee of the mayor's office, walking to work early the next day, found the gleaming eagle had been dropped in the middle of the bridge. It is now kept in a guarded city gallery.

The Pieta's loss, in 1995, left preservationists questioning whether the most expensive metal pieces should be replaced. A damaged golden lantern was replaced in December 1995. By New Year's Day, the lamp was gone.

Criminals prospecting for profit have moved beyond the most carefully guarded corners to partake of Prague's everyday grace. They have pinched shiny brass drain covers, once a common sight in subway corridors, and ripped open towering lantern poles in city parks in search of strands of copper wire.

The police say prevention is nearly impossible in this city of a million people. Instead, officers try to nip the trafficking of stolen goods by monitoring metal dealers, antique stores and flea markets. More recently, the police have begun tracking thefts by scanning Internet home pages for suspicious sales.

"Every scrap-metal dealer has a suspicion," said Miroslav Profeld of Prague Metal Dealers, whose company is one of about 50 salvage companies in the capital.

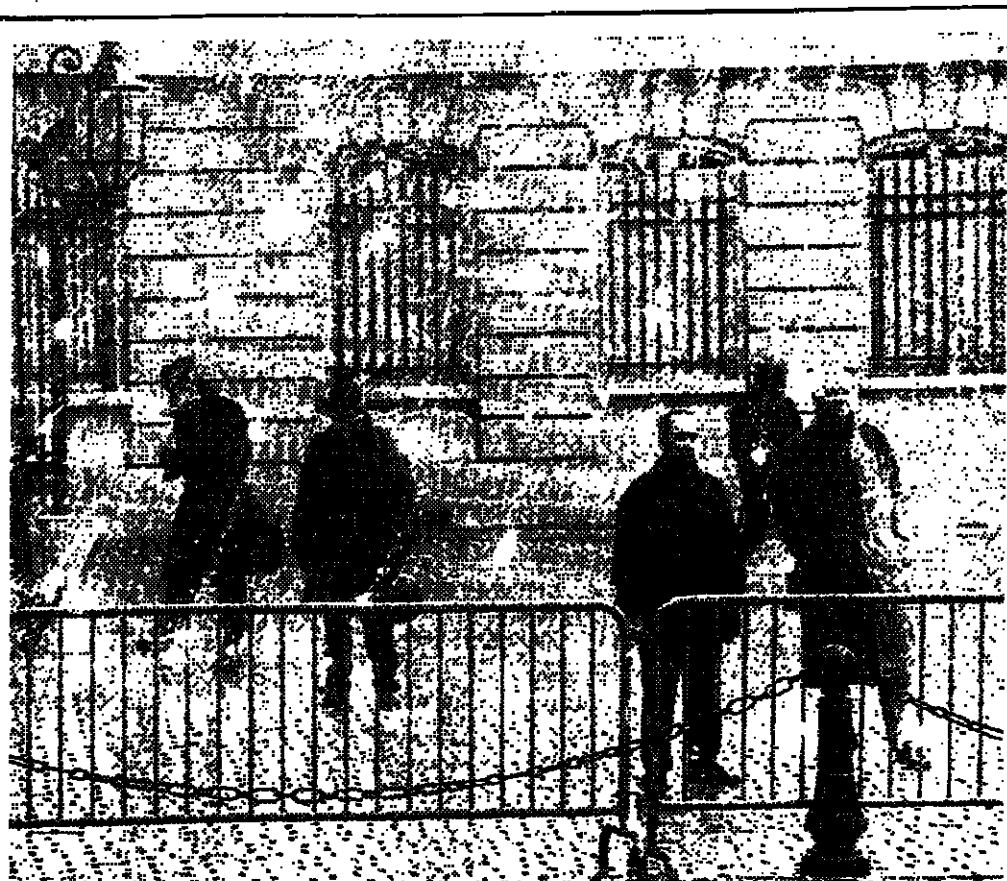
"We have to keep a register of suppliers and what they bring us. And if someone brings in a big piece of wire or a piece of a statue, they are supposed to notify us."

"But it's done on a case-by-case basis," he said. "Shop owners aren't obliged to tell us anything, and we aren't the police."

Across the Czech Republic, bronze filigree and copper bells have been filched from town squares. In Prague's Plzen Gardens, a five-foot bronze nymph was swiped a few years ago only to surface in a local antique store. A customer reported seeing it to the police, who returned it to the Gallery of Prague.

When the gallery curator, Jindra Hubena, was notified by the police of the recovery, she choked at the bargain the thief had struck. He had sold the statue for \$1,200. She estimates its worth at \$25,000.

No more chances for this nymph, Miss Hubena decided. The statue was placed in a guarded city park.



RAINING FIRE — Security forces protecting the regional prefecture in the French city of Metz coming under a shower of fireworks tossed by protesting coal miners Tuesday.

Keith Porter, Cell Biologist, Dies at 84

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Keith Porter, 84, a biologist who made the first photographs of tissue cells with the aid of an electron microscope and thus helped found the modern field of cell biology, died Friday in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, of pneumonia, a complication of Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Porter, who did much of his work in the 1940s at the Rockefeller Institute, which is now Rockefeller University, in New York City, devised methods of microscopy that are substantially the same as those used today in the study of cellular growth, normal and malignant, and the division and function of cells.

"There can be no doubt," said Lee Peachey, a biologist at the University of Pennsylvania, "that his goal of understanding the basic structure and functioning of cells contributed in an almost inestimable way, and through the work of many others, to our present understanding of disease processes and to future advances in medicine."

Mr. Porter's achievement came after he grew embryonic chick cells on layered plastic in a glass petri dish. When he found cells that had spread suitably thin, he used a watchmaker's forceps to peel off one layer of the plastic and insert a wire grid, which was like a piece of fine window screening. He then treated the cells with a chemical to preserve them and dried them.

The new electron microscope could see detail 1,000 times finer than the older light microscope, but it required that the objects observed be both dry and thinner than those the scientists had been able

to isolate for analysis. The microscope illuminates its objects for observing and photographing with streams of subatomic electrons instead of beams of light.

Joseph Charles Swidler, 90, New Dealer

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Joseph Charles Swidler, 90, one of the last New Dealers of 1933 and a Washington utilities lawyer who overhauled the Federal Power Commission, died of a heart attack May 1 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

Mr. Swidler worked in the law office of David Lilienthal, whom President Franklin D. Roosevelt picked as the first administrator of the Tennessee Valley Authority, a power and flood control project that was a major part of the New Deal.

Mr. Swidler was the authority's counsel from 1933 to 1957. He then went into private practice in Tennessee until President John Kennedy named him chairman of the Federal Power Commission in 1961.

At his death, he was senior counsel and a retired founding partner of the Washington law firm of Swidler & Berlin.

Paul Lambert, 74, a character actor in movies and on television, died April 27 in Santa Monica, California. Mr. Lambert played cowboys, gangsters, ministers and executives, and the national editor of The Washington Post in "All the President's Men." He made his movie debut in 1960 in "Spartacus" and acted in 300 shows on television.

BRIEFLY

Arafat Agrees to Security Talks

EREZ CROSSING — President Ezer Weizman of Israel said Tuesday that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian president, had agreed to renew security coordination with the Jewish state after a seven-week crisis in peacemaking.

"He will do everything so that security will be O.K., and he will bring about a resumption of talks between security chiefs of the Palestinian Authority and our security chiefs," Mr. Weizman said after meeting with Mr. Arafat at Israel's border with Gaza. "This point was agreed upon. I hope it will begin operating within a few days."

But at a news conference after the talks, Mr. Arafat stopped short of declaring a renewal of high-level security contacts. A Palestinian official confirmed that security meetings would be held, but only with U.S. representatives present.

An official of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Abed Rabbo, said none of the basic issues between the two sides has been resolved, including the PLO's demand that construction on a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem be halted. (Reuters)

Israel Backs Naval Exercise

JERUSALEM — A joint Israeli, Turkish and American naval exercise in the Mediterranean will contribute to the stability of the Middle East, Israel's defense minister says.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met Monday with General Cevik Bir, Turkey's deputy military chief of staff, to discuss security cooperation between Israel and Turkey, including the exercises, which are expected to take place this summer.

He told General Bir that he had "no doubt that this cooperation will contribute to stability in the Middle East, and that it is Israel's intention to widen and deepen the links," the Defense Ministry said.

Syria asserted Tuesday that a "covert alliance" between Israel and Turkey threatened the region. (AP)

Winnipeg Hopes Worst Is Over

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Winnipeg's confidence grew Tuesday as the Red River's crest began to recede, but emergency officials cautioned against succumbing to a false sense of security.

"We're still in the mode of being very vigilant," Mayor Susan Thompson said. "We're still on pins and needles for the next two weeks at least."

Dikes holding back floodwaters in the Red River Valley took a beating from high winds Monday but came through without any major breaches.

Winds were forecast to gust up to 25 miles an hour Tuesday, further battering the flood defenses that have so far saved Winnipeg, a city of 650,000, from serious damage. (Reuters)

Chile Police and Miners Clash

SANTIAGO — Riot policemen used clubs, tear gas and water cannons Monday to scatter hundreds of coal miners who are dissatisfied with the compensation offered for the loss of their jobs when a state-owned mine in Lota was closed.

The police said that 28 people had been detained and that about 10 had been injured.

The clashes occurred during a protest march by about 800 miners when the demonstrators attempted to reach the presidential palace. President Eduardo Frei was away in northern Chile. (AP)

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NATO-Russia Charter

The United States is skirting a political danger zone in its negotiation with Russia over the proposed NATO-Russia "charter." The charter is part of a NATO enlargement and part of a post-Cold War cooperation. It is meant to ease the anxieties many Russians feel as they see an alliance they had come to perceive as hostile moving closer to their shrunken borders, and to induce deeper collaboration with the West.

The problem is whether the allies, in their good-faith effort not to put Russia at a further strategic or political disadvantage, are diluting the alliance with imprudent military pledges and affording Moscow a veto in the name of "consultation." This is the question the Senate will surely ask when a rewritten NATO treaty eventually comes before it. A proper caution compels the administration to inquire on its own.

The administration approaches the charter with an eye to balancing the integrity of the alliance and the legitimate national concerns — as distinguished from the swollen nationalistic claims — of the Russians. But this is no simple balance to make. Everyone in the West can agree that new members should come first-class, not second-class, and that Russia's security should not diminish as a result. But that merely pushes the argument from principle to details. The deployment of particular weapons, conventional as well as nuclear, must be resolved, and the explicitness of the assurances that NATO will provide.

Diplomatic art led the alliance to say that it has "no intention, no plan and no reason" to deploy nuclear arms on the territory of new member states and that it has no current plans to permanently station "substantial" combat forces. When the Russians refused to take such statements as NATO's last word, the United States proposed a split-level negotiation. Instead of writing conventional-force levels into a NATO-Russia charter, American officials thought to leave them to a parallel negotiation on limits on conventional forces in Europe. The rationale is that, while Russia is not a member of NATO, it did sign the treaty limiting those forces.

The particulars remain to be assembled and fitted together. What needs to be kept foremost in mind at this point is the destination. NATO is an alliance of democracies. It is a military alliance, ensuring in the warmer conditions now prevailing the stability of Europe. The process of enlarging the alliance should not leave it less capable of providing either defense or stability. It would be good to have the complicated business of a charter wrapped up in the few weeks remaining before NATO decides on a first round of enlargement. But the matter is too important to be rushed.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Latin American Poverty

As President Bill Clinton meets Central American and Caribbean leaders this week, he will find that some basic economic assumptions have changed. A few years ago, despite warnings from many economists, politicians in Latin America and Washington assumed that economic growth alone would take care of even the poorest Latin Americans. Many people believed them. They do not anymore. Growth has been too slow, and in Latin America, which has the largest gap between rich and poor, the gains have gone mainly to the rich, buying too many cell phones and not enough rice.

Because of inequality and high population growth, there are more poor people in Latin America than ever before. Market reforms have removed many disastrous policies and bureaucratic obstacles to long-term growth and possibly long-term relief for the poor. But Latin governments are now realizing that even with market economies, they need sound social policies and stronger education and health systems to reduce poverty on a broad scale. The Inter-American Development Bank is now focusing on such programs. President Clinton will mention poverty, but the issue deserves more emphasis than it will get.

Latin America's economies have grown 3 percent a year in this decade, a welcome contrast to the sharp decline during the debt crisis of the 1980s. But many forget that from World War II to 1980, Latin America grew 5.5 percent each year. Its swift population growth requires economic growth of at least 6 percent.

The picture is not uniformly bleak. Several countries have reduced poverty since 1990, mainly by taming inflation, which is hardest on the poor. Brazil is the most recent success. But this is a dividend that only pays out once. To sustain the decrease in poverty levels, countries would do well to copy Chile's example. Chile has not only enjoyed steady growth but has moved to attack poverty in ways the market cannot. Among its important initiatives have been reforms in the education system, including special emphasis on better elementary schooling for poor children. Bolivia has also made important reforms.

Social security is now more accessible to the poor, and new banks specialize in very small loans.

Other nations have been less innovative. In general, Latin countries need to invest much more than they have in basic health and primary education, which have been slighted in favor of universities and high-tech urban hospitals that largely help the middle class. They should also focus on women and girls, who are the poorest. Many needed reforms, such as widening access to credit or land titles, cost very little.

These reforms would benefit the United States as well. Middle-class Latin Americans will be less likely to emigrate. The wealthier people be-

come, the more they will buy American exports. The United States now exports more to Central America than it does to the whole of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Clinton will hear complaints from leaders who have watched with dismay as the United States shifted its trade and investment to Mexico after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The World Bank estimated that the Caribbean could see Mexico take over a third of its exports to the United States. Mr. Clinton should renew efforts in Congress to give hard-hit exports from the Caribbean the same entry to the United States that Mexico enjoys.

The United States is also \$20 billion in arrears to a special fund at the Inter-American Development Bank that finances anti-poverty projects in Latin America's five poorest countries. Congress should promptly pay off that shortfall.

Mr. Clinton has a lot to talk about during his journey, including migration, environmental protection and drugs. But he should make time to talk about fighting poverty. Washington played a major role in persuading Latin America to institute free-market reforms. It can now usefully promote a second wave of reforms to extend the market's benefits to the poor.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

Louts Aloft

The rise in loutish behavior in recent years is deplorable. But when it occurs 30,000 feet in the air it is also dangerous. A one-day conference in Washington, designed to highlight the problem posed specifically by unruly airline passengers and to outline some solutions, throws some light on the broader problem.

The number of reported incidents of violent or hostile air travelers is still small but sharply increasing. Cases of passengers interfering with crews during flights nearly doubled in two years, from 96 in 1993 to 174 in 1995. Those cases, reported to the Federal Aviation Administration, appear to be just the tip of the iceberg. One major carrier reported 882 cases of passenger misconduct in 1995, a broader category that includes physical contact as well as verbal abuse. That number soared from 296 incidents in 1994.

Alcohol is often a big part of the problem, and the stress of travel and crowded planes also contributes. But as one official noted: "Airline passengers mirror society. They're less willing to accept problems or delays, and many are aggressive."

And the rest of us? There's something called the Golden Rule.

Look it up.

— Los Angeles Times

Britain's Changing of the Guard: A Few Lessons

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Elected on Thursday, Tony Blair took office at No. 10 Downing Street on Friday possessing one giant advantage over a newly elected American president. The British prime minister does not have time after his election to ponder what he intends to do with power and with whom he intends to do it.

Like most leaders in Europe — only more so — the British prime minister has to arrive in office with an established agenda and already knowing his cabinet ministers and the roles he expects them to play. A 24-hour transition such as the one Mr. Blair and John Major have just accomplished does not permit the extended agonizing over personnel and policies that the American system encourages, complete with unpleasant surprises.

In France, where a long presidential transition is a week, it is common for Americans to be asked with genuine puzzlement how we can elect and choose complete strangers to lead us. In this case, the French have a point.

Moreover, like a French president, Mr. Blair and his ministers can change only a handful of the senior civil servants who run their departments and offices. In Europe and Japan, experienced, nonpartisan government employees are expected — and trusted

— to guide the new officeholders. In return, the politicians do not have to use up time and moral authority finding jobs for the boys and girls who rang doorbells or the donors who bankrolled them. That might have a certain appeal for Bill Clinton at this moment.

Don't get me wrong. There are obvious pitfalls in the swift executive transition. It does not correspond to many needs of the much larger, more heterogeneous American polity. But watching Mr. Blair on television hit the ground running, I could not help thinking that we Americans have something to gain by shortening and tightening the travesty that the 10-week U.S. interregnum and celebratory inaugural have become.

Nor do I mean to suggest that governmental harmony will reign in Britain because Mr. Blair has already been working with his future ministers, in a publicly declared shadow cabinet, in Parliament and during the campaign. To know them is not necessarily to love them.

The most obvious and important example of this comes in foreign affairs. For reasons of factional balance within the Labour Party, the centrist Blair was obliged to name as his foreign secretary

Robin Cook, a member of Labour's old leftist guard who does not particularly want that job. Mr. Cook wants to be the chancellor of the exchequer, a space already filled by the one-time Blair rival Gordon Brown.

But in the British system this is not likely to be a serious problem. Mr. Blair and his aides already know many of the Foreign Office senior officials and ambassadors abroad and will be able to work directly with them.

Mr. Blair and other Labour leaders began touring key foreign embassies 18 months ago as part of a British tradition in which the "outs" begin to prepare themselves well in advance for possibly taking power in the next election. It is the British equivalent of barbecues in Iowa — but much more productive.

One remarkable aspect of the campaign that has just ended was the way in which Mr. Blair's New Labourites won the open support of a major segment of Britain's foreign policy establishment, which traditionally has been nonpartisan or in the Conservative camp.

Sir Robin Kenwick, the former British ambassador in Washington; Lord Gifford of Thamesfield, the former head of Britain's diplomatic service, and Sir Michael Butler, ex-ambassador to the European Union, were among those who contributed ideas and papers to Mr.

Blair's campaign. They form the nucleus of an unofficial foreign policy collegium for Mr. Blair in his early days.

Not everyone sees the heavy reliance the British system encourages on civil servants and retired mandarins as an unmitigated blessing. "The bureaucracy will inevitably take all risks, and therefore all initiative for change, out of governing if the politicians depend too heavily on them," says a former Tory officeholder. "People who have just voted for change will wind up disillusioned if they get immobilism" instead.

But in any case Mr. Blair in his careful campaign did not reveal any desire to strike out in new directions abroad.

His advisers say that they hope to mend relations with Washington, frayed by the Clintonites' welcoming political representatives of the Irish Republican Army at the White House.

Mr. Blair's Britain will also be more outspoken on human rights abuses within the Commonwealth and more open to cooperating with Europe.

Otherwise there will be little change in policies and procedures that Blair & Co. have taken the trouble to get to know and prepared to implement long before Election Day.

The Washington Post

Japan Is Not in Bad Shape, So Why All the Hand-Wringing?

By Richard Halloran

TOKYO — Japan seems strangely dispirited these days. In almost a throwback to the early 1960s before the Japanese economic surge began. Consequently, and contrary to the expectations of many Americans and the anxieties of some Asians, Japan is far from emerging as a political power with greater security responsibilities in Asia.

In the late 1980s, the speculative, inflated "bubble economy" ballooned as the Japanese became overconfident and even arrogant. That bubble burst in the early 1990s and sent land prices, the stock market, foreign investments and the yen plummeting. Japan slid into a recession from which it is just now recovering.

Today, despite every indication that Japan is on the rebound, government officials, business executives, political commentators and strategic thinkers bemoan the state of the nation. Specifically, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto sits atop a shaky coalition that precludes the Japanese government from taking initiatives in foreign policy. The once-vaunted bureaucracy has been tainted by allegations of bribery, incompetence and cover-up. Business leaders have been embarrassed because recovery from the recession has been slower than expected and the public questions their ability to revive prosperity.

Underlying this malaise is a Japan still encased in the pacifist cocoon in which the nation wrapped itself after the devastating destruction of World War II and the U.S. occupation. Thus, far from seeking to exert political influence or to become active in the security of Asia, the disheartened Japanese seem content with their nation's low profile.

It was against this backdrop that Mr. Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton met in Washington on Jan. 25, a year after they issued a joint declaration in Tokyo under which Japan was to shoulder a heavier defense burden and to provide more support for U.S. forces in Asia. The January meeting was devoted to commonplace issues and no new ground was broken. Today, a senior Japanese official said, "nothing has changed."

Not all Japanese are satisfied with this low profile, some pointing to tensions with most of Japan's neighbors. Perhaps at the top of the list are hostile relations with North Korea. Also on the list is China, which regularly berates Japan for its brutalities in World War II, for what the Chinese claim is a potential resurgence of Japanese militarism and for Japan's alliance with the United States. The Chinese contend this is part of a U.S. conspiracy to contain China.

South Koreans become emotional over any perceived slight from Japan, which occupied Korea from 1910 until 1945.

Japan's relations with Moscow remain strained over the Kuril Islands. And the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations have bitter memories of Japan's invasion during the war and worry about its economic domination today.

Some Westerners in Japan caution against writing off the nation as an economic power, although the Japanese have no blueprint for the future.

At \$217 billion, Japan's foreign exchange reserves are larger than those of the United States, Germany, Britain and France combined. Japan's growth rate in 1996, at 3.1 percent, was the highest among the large industrial nations. Industrial production was the highest, unemployment the lowest and inflation the lowest of the major economies.

Glen Fukushima, vice pres-

ident of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo, wrote recently that the recession which began in the early 1990s has led many in Japan to "bemoan the state of the economy and to engage in self-flagellation, which the Japanese have mastered to a fine art."

Thus, he argued, many in the West underestimate Japan just as they overestimated it in the 1980s.

Mr. Fukushima, once a senior official in the U.S. Trade Representative's Office who negotiated extensively with Japan, wondered whether the Japanese were wringing their hands just a tad too much so as to divert foreign attention.

"Japan is spared the close scrutiny of its government policies, corporate practices, trade behavior and investment patterns whose asymmetries and imbalances attracted the world's wrath only a few years ago."

International Herald Tribune

This American Now Believes Clinton Did Not Tell the Truth

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — As of May 5, 1997, it became impossible for me to believe it happened the way President Bill Clinton and his wife said it had.

On that day I rejected, for myself, the story by William J. Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton that neither they nor anybody else at the White House knew that when their good friend Webster L. Hubbell resigned as associate attorney general in 1994 he was facing the likelihood of criminal accusations that could land him in jail. They did.

If the president did know, then after the resignation he opened himself to possible charges of obstructing justice

by approving White House job-hunting for Mr. Hubbell. It would not take a particularly suspicious mind — let alone a prosecutor's — to see high-paying jobs as hush money to keep a defendant silent. Why would he take that risk?

On May 5, The New York Times reported (NYT, May 6) that before Mr. Hubbell resigned, David E. Kendall, the personal lawyer of the Clintons, and James B. Blair, one of their closest Arkansas confidants, received certain information from the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock. Mr. Hubbell and Mrs. Clinton had been partners in the firm.

The information was that the firm had "pretty strong proof of wrongdoing" by Mr. Hubbell while he was a partner. The Times account said Mr. Blair then warned the Clintons that Mr. Hubbell had to resign, fast. Mr. Kendall was also involved in getting the resignation.

Until The Times report, I found it hard to believe the Clintons would take the risk of an obstruction of justice charge, the accusation that led to Richard Nixon's resignation — and down the same road of stonewalling.

And like most Americans, I think, I was and remain sick at

the thought of the damage to the United States of the destruction in office of another presidency.

After the article appeared, the White House said it did not know "the full nature and seriousness" of the charges against Mr. Hubbell until he pleaded guilty. Note "full." But did it know that the "nature" and "seriousness" involved criminality?

Perhaps others will still believe the White House did not know. But now that means accepting the following:

1. The Clintons' lawyer and Mr. Blair, who has been involved in their decisions for two decades, including Whitewater and Mrs. Clinton's commodity trading, both found out in the spring of 1994 that Mr. Hubbell was likely to face criminal charges. But neither bothered to tell that to the president.

2. Then both told the Clintons that Mr. Hubbell should resign. But neither told them exactly why.

3. To hear the president keep telling it, "everybody" at the White House thought it was all just about some billing dispute with the Arkansas law firm, nothing "improper."

But the Clintons never asked their lawyers why, then, Mr. Hubbell had to be kicked out of the job to which President Clinton had appointed him, to keep him near.

4. For three years the Clintons have kept saying that nobody

around the White House knew the "nature" of the allegations against Mr. Hubbell. President Clinton said it again on April 3. Nobody knew. "So no, I do not think they did anything improper." They would include Mr. and Mrs. Clinton.

Yet all that time Mr. Kendall and Mr. Blair never informed the president that it was untrue that nobody knew, since at least they had been told the charges would amount to theft.

5. If Mr. Kendall did not inform them of the seriousness of the charges, he must have been unaware that the omission was a violation of trust and law, as their personal lawyer.

6. The lawyers did not know it was an offense to recommend anybody for a job without disclosing possible criminal action against that individual.

How many Americans now will still believe that the Clinton lawyers and his closest advisers concealed from the president and his wife the information about the criminal nature of the allegations against Mr. Hubbell — or that the Clintons never asked if crime was involved?

We do not know if the Clintons or their lawyers ever expected it all to come out someday, and that what Webster Hubbell might have known to make Mr. Clinton indanger his presidency. Someday was May 5, 1997.

The New York Times

Dignity for Holocaust Victims

By Menachem Z. Rosensaft

NEW YORK — My mother, Dr. Hadassah Bimko Rosensaft, has been honored as a heroine of the Holocaust.

At Auschwitz, she risked her life to save hundreds of women from the gas chambers. And at Bergen-Belsen, from December 1944 until the camp's liberation by British troops in April 1945, she organized efforts to keep 149 orphaned children alive during epidemics of typhus, typhoid fever, diphtheria and other diseases that killed tens of thousands of inmates.

Having lost her entire family, my mother had every reason to give up on the world, but she never gave in to despair.

Yet she and tens of thousands of other Holocaust survivors continue to suffer as a result of the physical and psychological torment they were subjected to during World War II. The small monthly reparations checks many of them receive from Germany are inadequate to cover the medical costs they face because of illnesses they contracted in the ghettos and camps. Thousands of others receive no reparations at all.

My mother had malaria and hepatitis at Auschwitz. Because these were not treated at the time, she now suffers from severe cirrhosis of the liver. But the German government has refused to pay for her now-frequent hospitalizations without conclusive proof that her condition is the direct result of her imprisonment.

But the real issue is fundamental decency, rather than money. Mr. Kohl and other German leaders should immediately establish a comprehensive insurance fund to cover the medical expenses of all Holocaust survivors.

At a 1981 conference of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, my mother observed that, for most Holocaust survivors, "there was no ecstasy, no joy" at liberation.

"We had lost our families, our homes. We had no place to go, nobody to hug. Nobody was waiting for us anywhere. We had been liberated from death and the fear of death, but not from the fear of life."

Now, 52 years after the end of the Holocaust, the survivors deserve not charity but dignity and respect.

That means the "new" Germany must settle its remaining accounts with those whose lives were ruined by the "old" Germany.

So, too, must those other countries and institutions — such as Switzerland and its banks — that failed European Jewry during and after the Holocaust.

No survivor should have to spend a single additional day with "fear of life."

The writer, a lawyer, is the founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Plans for Peace

LONDON — The Times on the war says: "All the six Governments are anxious to see the contest terminated. Even the Porte is to be willing to forego vengeance for peace. But the Greeks must show a firm disposition to accept the advice of the Powers before the Powers can be asked to interpose on their behalf. They will have to evacuate Crete and in all probability to pay a war indemnity."

1922: Chinese Maids

PARIS — Many men have envied King Cophetua because it was in his power to choose as his bride the most beautiful maid in his realm; but the titular boy-emperor of China might be accounted more fortunate. China is reputed to have a population of no less than 400,000,000 souls. Possibly the maids eligible for marriage

number one-fifth as many, or 80,000,000. The Emperor's selection appears to be officially recorded, and a "secondary wife" was picked out for him. But it is reasonable to suppose that little sixteen-year-old Hu Uan-Tung would cheerfully dispense with any wife in order to be just like any other boy.

1947: Hunting Reds

PARIS — Mr. J. Edgar Hoover told the House Appropriations Committee that there are more Communists per capita in the United States today than there were in Russia in 1917. In the result, he got every cent of this requested appropriation for the police activities of the FBI, but the committee gave nothing for the State Department's cultural and information program designed to meet the Communist challenge on the plane of ideas, purposes and facts rather than that of police work.

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Japan 1950



Miriam Wilngal with John Muke: "I don't want to depend on a man."

BRIDE: Woman Challenges Tribal Custom in Papua New Guinea

Continued from Page 1

"This is a landmark case in recognition of women's rights to equality and freedom," Miss Balen said. "Women are not animals."

The customary law of the tribes co-exists in Papua New Guinea with the legal system, she said, but can be challenged if it is in violation of the nation's democratic constitution.

A National Court judge in the city of Mount Hagen, 40 miles from Minj, recently ruled in favor of Miss Wilngal, saying her rights to personal freedom and equal status had been violated.

But the elders of the aggrieved Konumbuka subclan of the Tangilka tribe have only become angrier.

"They say, 'We still want a woman,'" said John Muke, a professor of archeology at the University of Papua New Guinea, who is a Kumu Kanem clansman of Miss Wilngal's and at whose home she is now staying. "They want to take my clan to court for cheating them, for denying them their rights."

In effect, they are threatening to use the modern legal system to demand their traditional tribal rights.

The continuing court battle demonstrates the resiliency of tribal customs, he said, which absorb and adapt the new ways that have intruded on them.

Viewed within the belief system of the country's highland culture, he said, the demand by the Konumbuka clan for Miss Wilngal appears less shocking.

"Yes, a woman is treated as a commodity, but in a spiritual sense it is much more than that," Mr. Muke said. "A woman is an object, but she is a divine object."

In Papua New Guinea's highlands, as in much of Melanesia, he said, women are at the heart of a complex system of relationships that is based on what he called a "botanical concept of growth."

In his tribe's language, the mother is known here as the "base" of the family tree. Her children are her cuttings or transplants. Her brothers — their uncles — are called root people. The father, he said, has no blood tie to the family and is

known by a term that literally means "the place where I stay most of the time."

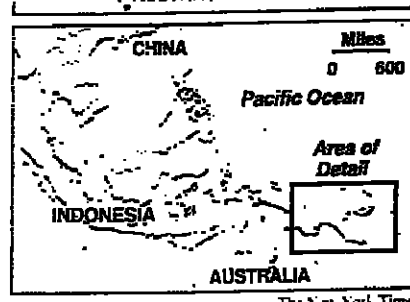
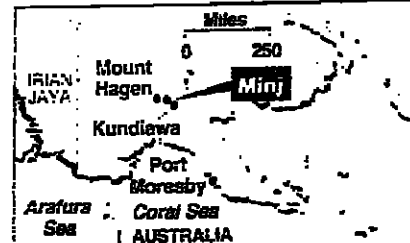
When a girl is given in marriage her husband's family receives the bounty of a "cutting" from the maternal base and acquires an obligation to her brothers. The labor of a wife and mother is given a material value. It must be repaid.

When a generation has passed, according to tribal custom, one or more of her granddaughters are expected to be returned to her family, in a tradition that is known as "returning the skull in a net bag" or sometimes simply "head pay."

Rather than merely being the barter of young women, Mr. Muke said, it is a social custom that is not so different from the marriage system of European royalty.

"I would do the same," said Mr. Muke. "I have maternal uncles. I have a daughter. I must repay the debt of all the work my mother did. One way is to make the payment in a lump sum and give my daughter back in marriage."

In a complicated application of this tradition, it is Miss Wilngal's uncles in the aggrieved clan who are demanding



Car Bomb in Algiers Kills Four Youths

The Associated Press

ALGIERS — A powerful car bomb exploded Tuesday near two schools in an Algiers neighborhood, killing four people — all children or adolescents — and wounding 25, officials said.

The car was packed with explosives and pieces of metal, security forces said. The explosion just before noon in the Bab el Oued neighborhood blew out windows in buildings up to 300 meters (1,000 feet) away.

Doctors at Maillot Hospital, where most of the victims were taken, said that a 12-year-old died in the blast, along with three adolescents aged 15 to 18.

The car bomb exploded near both a primary school and a high school in Bab el Oued, a working-class neighborhood not far from the Casbah, considered a stronghold for Muslim fundamentalists.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, though suspicion fell on Muslim militants waging an insurgency for the past five years.

her as "head pay." Seen in this way, her refusal is a fundamental challenge to the social order of her tribe. "There must be a continuity, and this continuity is through the woman, the source of divine relationships," Mr. Muke said. "Miriam's case strikes at the root of things: it is kinship on trial."

FRANCE: Along Loire, They Ask, 'What's This Vote All About?'

Continued from Page 1

capitalism over the right to make a decent living.

That leaves Mr. Lang, who served as minister of culture and education when the late Francois Mitterrand was president, in a quandary about how to kick off his own campaign for a seat in the French National Assembly.

"People don't understand why France had to have an election now," said Mr. Lang, who is unhappy with Mr. Chirac's decision to call one nearly a

year early. "With all the holidays this month, and the good weather, people may not come out in large numbers, either, and that's bad for us."

In 1993, Mr. Lang bucked a conservative tidal wave and won a parliamentary seat here, but his victory was invalidated because he had exceeded campaign spending limits.

"I'm not campaigning, really," he insisted Saturday, making a couple of rounds through the Blois farmers' market to buy strawberries and greet people who know him well from the eight years

he has been mayor. On Sunday night, interviewed on national television, Mr. Lang played on Mr. Juppe's low ratings in public-opinion polls, which show fewer than 30 percent of the electorate is happy with him.

"The question really is: Do you want Alain Juppe to be replaced by Alain Juppe?" Mr. Lang asked.

The euro is not the issue, said Michel Oberle, a Blois oil dealer present at an event that Mr. Lang attended on the outskirts of Blois later Saturday morning. "All people ever want is a little dough in their pockets, and jobs," Mr. Oberle said.

Were people willing to sacrifice for a new kind of dough? he was asked. Mr. Oberle shrugged, saying, "People aren't really aware of the connection."

Mr. Oberle also said he did not believe that the conservatives were in grave danger of losing the election to the left.

The latest polls give the conservatives only a very narrow lead over the Socialists and Communists, though the conservatives had 465 of the 577 seats in Parliament just dissolved. Voters go to the polls May 25, with a runoff vote June 1 in districts where no one gets more than 50 percent of the vote.

In Blois, Marie-Jose Hauguel, president of the Heart of Blois Business Association, explained the city's euro promotion.

"The idea was that Jan. 1, 1999, was really just around the corner," she said. "So this week we'll have price tickets in both francs and euros, and distribute booklets explaining how the two are linked."

Though there is no euro today, there is a European currency unit, the Ecu, now worth 6.58 francs or \$1.20. So in her Pas a Pas children's shoe store, she will have blue tickets with the 15-star European Union symbol telling you that a pair of baby shoes that cost 145 francs today would cost about 22.30 euros, if the euro were worth the same as the Ecu.

Did she see a link between the euros and the election campaign Mr. Lang hopes to win? "I'll answer like the Normandy native I am, by saying neither yes or no," Mrs. Hauguel said. "We're just trying to help our city get ready."

She hoped she could look forward to fewer fluctuations in prices from her Italian and British suppliers if both Italy and Britain used the euro. "A strong Europe will help us all," she said. "But the euro is only one of the subjects in the French election — not the main one."

■ Chirac's Popularity Tumbles

An opinion survey made public Tuesday revealed that 65 percent of the French people are dissatisfied with President Chirac, the highest level of unpopularity registered by a head of state in the last two decades, Agence France-Presse reported from Paris.

The survey showed Mr. Chirac, who has been in office two years, sliding further down the political popularity charts than either of his two predecessors, Mr. Mitterrand, in office for 14 years, and Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who served a seven-year term.

Strike Puts a Gag on French Diplomacy

The Associated Press

PARIS — French diplomacy was tongue-tied Tuesday with its encoders, responsible for sending sensitive information between embassies and government ministries, on strike.

"Communication has been slowed down," said Jacques Rummelhardt, the Foreign Affairs spokesman. But he added that there was "no threat to communications security."

The encoders, who went on strike Monday for three days, are protesting the changing status of their work

brought about by the increasing use of sophisticated electronic communications.

"The work used to be as you imagine it to be in a John Le Carré novel," Mr. Rummelhardt said. "These days, there are computers and the Internet."

There are 270 encoders involved in the strike in France and in French embassies around the world.

The strike was blocking telegrams between Paris and its embassies, according to a group of strikers outside the Foreign Ministry.

BRITAIN: Central Bank Free to Set Rate

Continued from Page 1

ted for three-year terms by the government. None of the members, Mr. Brown emphasized, will be politicians.

He blamed politicians for too often setting policy to suit electoral needs, with the result being that the British economy has long been plagued by damaging cycles. While several formal chancellors have come to endorse independence for the central bank, in office none could surrender the government's crucial power over what in effect is the economic accelerator.

"I don't think that anyone will be in any doubt after today that we are prepared to take the tough decisions," Mr. Brown said.

Some analysts said there also was a tactical benefit for the new government in empowering the Bank of England.

"Yes, Mr. Brown has given away some of his power," said John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets, "but he has also devolved a lot of the hassle. The next time the bank says rates must go up, the chancellor will be able to hold up his

hands and say, 'Don't blame me.'"

But although Mr. Brown said his policies were designed for the long-term good, his double-barreled crackdown on inflation produced some immediate effect Tuesday.

The London stock market soared, with the FT-SE 100 index finishing up 63.7 points at a record 4,519.3. The bond market also gained, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond finishing at 7.10 percent, down from 7.39 percent Monday.

"Gordon Brown has gained more credibility in one day than many chancellors earn in years," Mr. Richardson said.

In the bond markets analysts bet that under the Bank of England, monetary policy would be tighter than ever. At Kleinwort Benson Securities, economists increased to 7 percent from 6.75 percent their forecast for the base interest rate at the end of the year.

In welcoming the bank's new powers, the Confederation of British Industry predicted that the move "will enhance the credibility of the U.K.'s monetary policy."

More important, the lobbying group for the country's largest companies said, the change will lower interest rates on long-term loans for business as investors gain faith that inflation in Britain will remain under tight control.

Some economists predicted a lasting decline of half a percentage point simply on the supposition that the so-called risk premium in long term interest rates will now follow political influence over monetary policy into oblivion.

Fighting Continues in Burundi

Reuters

BUJUMBURA, Burundi — Burundi state radio said Tuesday the army killed more than 100 rebels in fighting Monday in the south of the country.

An army spokesman said earlier that at least 26 people had been killed in fighting in the area, the Rutovu district, about 75 kilometers south of the capital.

ABORTION: Women Bend Europe's Laws by Crossing Borders

Continued from Page 1

on income. The secretary paid about \$430.

The more than 15,000 European women who cross borders for abortions each year present a curious policy dilemma, abortion-rights advocates say. On the one hand, women who want abortions are not held hostage by strict laws, as in Ireland and France. They have more choice.

On the other hand, advocates say, women must pay more money and, if they are going to a country with a different language, potentially experience more difficulties if they cannot have the procedure done at home. And politicians in those countries can escape pressure to

revise their laws, given a safety valve across the border.

Tony O'Brien, chief executive of the Irish Family Planning Association, said: "People say there is no abortion in Ireland. We say, 'Yes there is, we just export it.'"

Leaders of the fragmented anti-abortion movement in France, where 250,000 legal abortions are performed annually, say they are aware that women obtain elsewhere what is illegal in France, but that there is little hope a way can be found to keep home the 5,000 or so Frenchwomen who receive abortions elsewhere each year.

"You cannot keep someone from going abroad, and you certainly can't tell whether someone crossing a border is

pregnant," said Bernard D'Hartoy, delegate general of Let Them Live, the oldest French anti-abortion group.

The French government is perplexed. "If we pushed the deadline back a month, we'd have the same situation," said Jean-Francois Girard, a director general in the Health Ministry. "The answer is more information, more education, to let women make their decision early enough."

Abortion laws in Europe vary from Ireland's total prohibition to France's 10-week limit (with exceptions for medical reasons) to Spain's 22 weeks and to 24 weeks in Britain and the Netherlands.

But it is not just laws that affect women's choices. In France, making an appointment for a pregnancy examination can take several weeks. By that time, the 10-week deadline has often passed. Some physicians also try to dissuade women from having abortions, delay scheduling them until after the deadline or simply refuse to perform the procedure — a stance permitted under French law.

In Germany, where the laws are complex, ambiguous and can require numerous tests and consultations, women often prefer to go to the Netherlands. Nearly 3,000 did so in 1995.

Either for marketing reasons or out of necessity, clinics catering to foreign patients have made a special effort to welcome them.

Dr. Morin's clinic has two employees whose job is to handle French patients. "I'm sure there is no private clinic in all of Europe that can give this kind of attention," he said.

Prodi Wins Confidence Vote on Budget

Reuters

ROME — The government comfortably won a confidence vote in Parliament on Tuesday that was called to speed the approval of a supplementary budget it says is vital for Italy to join a single European currency.

The center-left government won the vote in the Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 318 to 260, parliamentary officials said. The victory, which had been expected, sweeps aside hundreds of opposition amendments to the budget package, which will now go to the Senate for a vote.

The supplementary budget is in-

tended to trim the 1997 deficit by 15.5 trillion lire (\$9 billion) to bolster Italy's bid to join economic and monetary union in January 1999.

Prime Minister Romano Prodi has repeatedly said he would resign if Italy failed to join the single currency.

The supplementary budget, has been criticized by the opposition and even centrists in his governing coalition for seeking to have companies pay taxes on severance payment funds before they were due. Because of the outcry, the government cut to 5 trillion lire, from 6 trillion lire, the amount it expected to raise this way.

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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Zedillo and Clinton Agree on Drugs and Migrants

MEXICO CITY — In a show of solidarity on the most divisive issues between the two countries, Presidents Bill Clinton and Ernesto Zedillo pledged Tuesday to crack down on drug traffickers and cooperate on immigration.

Overlooking the lawn of the Campo Marte parade ground, Mr. Clinton said that Mexico and the United States must "conquer our common enemies of drugs and crime."

The joint declarations were announced after a 21-gun military salute officially welcomed President Clinton for two days of talks and tourism. President Zedillo called Mr. Clinton "a good friend to Mexico — a friend who respects Mexico as a sovereign nation."

The remarks played to the widespread belief here that U.S. actions on trade and drug trafficking undermine Mexico's national integrity. In a nod to that sense of nationalism, Mr. Clinton argued that the United States and Mexico are equal

partners, even on the most contentious topics.

"Let us reach across our common frontier to embrace our tomorrow together — to enter the 21st century as valued partners and trusted friends," Mr. Clinton said.

A summary of the joint declaration on fighting drug trafficking gives the Zedillo and Clinton cabinets until the end of the year to complete a common strategy on 16 specific objectives — ranging from a crackdown on money laundering to negotiations of an extradition agreement and further cooperation on efforts to stem the flow of illegal firearms across the border.

The immigration agreement, designed to better manage the 2,000-mile border, calls for new checkpoints and bridges and for a redoubled effort "to work together on migrant trafficking, protecting the rights of migrants and removing criminal aliens."

Those words were carefully selected

to address both Mexican concerns that immigrants' rights are violated in the United States and Mr. Clinton's desire to hold the line on unfettered immigration.

At the welcoming ceremony, Mr. Zedillo and Mr. Clinton were joined on stage by their wives, Nilda Patricia Velasco and Hillary Rodham Clinton. They stood as both countries' national anthems were played and watched as cavalry and military academy cadets paraded by, trailed by horse-drawn cannons.

Despite the presidents' progress, anti-American sentiment was obvious. Mr. Clinton's visit was the target of at least two demonstrations Monday. "Clinton Go Home!" read one sign.

"We view him as a symbol of imperialism," said a protester, Carlos Martinez.

Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. president to visit Mexico City since Jimmy Carter in 1979, arrived Monday night for a tour of

an anthropology museum with Mr. Zedillo. On Tuesday, the leaders were conducting official talks and holding a news conference before a state dinner at the National Palace.

Mr. Clinton's schedule included meetings with leaders of the opposition to Mr. Zedillo's Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has run the country for decades.

Eight members of Clinton's cabinet met with their Mexican counterparts Monday to work out agreements in advance of the visit, including \$6 million from the U.S. government to help Mexico train anti-narcotics officers.

Mexico is the first stop on a weeklong trip that also will take Mr. Clinton to Costa Rica and Barbados.

A Changed Central America

Douglas Farah of *The Washington Post* reported from San Salvador: The last time a U.S. president visited Central America was 1989, when the region was engulfed in civil wars and George Bush angrily faced off with Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's Marxist president, over the threat of communism to the hemisphere.

When President Clinton arrives in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Wednesday to meet the region's leaders, he will find a Central America at peace for the first time in decades, with democratically elected governments replacing military dictatorships. He will be meeting with the presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and the prime minister of Belize.

After his two-day visit to San Jose, Mr. Clinton will go to Barbados to meet with leaders of the Caribbean, another region enjoying an unusual wave of democratic governments and economic



President Zedillo welcoming President Clinton to Mexico City. On Wednesday, Mr. Clinton is to attend a regional summit in Costa Rica.

liberalization. The sole exception is Cuba, which remains under one-party Communist rule.

With the end of the proxy wars of the Cold War era, Central America dropped from being one of the most contentious U.S. foreign policy issues to one of its most forgotten. U.S. aid has been slashed across the region. In El Salvador, where the United States once gave \$1.5 million a day to fight communism, the total aid package is now less than \$50 million a year.

U.S. aid to the region as a whole has fallen from \$226 million a year in the 1980s to \$26 million now.

ZAIRE: A Face-Saving Exit for Mobutu as the Rebels Close In

Continued from Page 1

business, as head of state, rather than surrendering to Mr. Kabila or resigning, as he has vowed never to do.

With Marshal Mobutu gone, diplomats here say, there would be far less chance that the Special Presidential Division, a loyalist guard composed of troops drawn from his northern Nguni tribe and related ethnic groups, would mount a last-ditch battle to defend the city.

Tension has steadily risen in Kinshasa in recent days along with expectations of an imminent rebel arrival. Kinshasa has been heavily looted twice this decade by government soldiers, and many in the city fear a repeat of the destruction if soldiers were to panic.

Unconfirmed reports by rebel sources said that government soldiers pillaged Marshal Mobutu's hometown Gbadolite, in the far north, on Tuesday. Gbadolite is the site of Marshal Mobutu's principal palace. Mr. Kabila's forces recently took Mr. Mobutu's birthplace nearby, Lisala, and were believed to be advancing on Gbadolite.

According to diplomats and travelers arriving in Kinshasa from the south, the rebels were already present in limited numbers on Kinshasa's southern outskirts, and they were reported to be preparing a much larger buildup in the city of Kikwit, 270 kilometers (170 miles) to the east.

A Western diplomat in Kinshasa said he expected that once Marshal Mobutu departed, the rebels would make a quick thrust to capture the international airport 25 kilometers east of the capital. Mr. Kabila has said it is an objective.

Control of the airport would allow the rebels to begin flying troops to Kinshasa in large numbers from bases in the south and from neighboring Angola, which has become Mr. Kabila's biggest backer in the war's final weeks.

In a move that was interpreted by many as an effort to calm rumors of the rebels' arrival in Kinshasa, Marshal Mobutu's military government announced Tuesday that it had recaptured the city of Kikwit and killed 500 of Mr. Kabila's forces in fierce fighting there. Government officials also reported fighting at Kenge, a rebel forward base less than 160 kilometers east of Kinshasa.

Diplomats and regional military analysts dismissed the report of the capture of Kikwit and said the skirmishes at Kenge most likely involved Angolan forces hired by Marshal Mobutu to slow the rebels' advance on Kinshasa.

Far from falling back into government hands, these analysts said, Kikwit has become a major staging area for the rebels, who are said to be flying troops to the city of 250,000 in large numbers from Lubumbashi, in the south, and from Angola.

"What you've had in the last couple of days is basically every kind of aircraft imaginable flying rebel troops into Kikwit," a regional military analyst said. "Once Kenge is secured, they'll

start flying smaller planes in there, and from there, Kinshasa is just a short hop away."

To visitors to Marshal Mobutu's palace in Kinshasa, in a normally tranquil military garrison known as Camp Tshatshi, the busy movement of soldiers suggested that for the president's guard, the front line in the six-month-old war had reached the camp's entrance gates.

Trucks carrying soldiers and rocket launchers ferried back and forth in front of a huge billboard painted with a portrait of Marshal Mobutu that read, "Welcome Back Papa Marshal." After a few moments' efforts to inquire after Marshal Mobutu's family, jittery soldiers chased a journalist away.

For most residents of the capital however, life went on as usual, despite reports of the rebels' continued advance. Most of the population of Kinshasa seems to await Mr. Kabila's arrival eagerly, seeing him as a liberator after three decades of ruinous rule by Marshal Mobutu.

"After 32 years under one man we are saturated," said Jocelyn Kimbombo, 27, a seamstress. "We don't know exactly what Kabila will do for us, but we all hope that he will think about his country more than Mobutu did."

Mr. Kabila's international reputation has continued to deteriorate, even as people prepare to celebrate him in Kinshasa. His movement, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo, was created with the help of Rwanda six months ago amid an uprising in eastern Zaire by ethnic Tutsi there.

Throughout the alliance's campaign for power in Zaire, relief officials say, it has simultaneously waged a merciless war against the large population of Hutu refugees in Zaire, many of whom participated in a 1994 Hutu genocide of the Tutsi minority in Rwanda.

SWISS: Freeze Urged on Despot's Assets

Continued from Page 1

Mobutu's spoils have been stashed away here has left the Swiss squirming — particularly because the speculation comes while revelations continue to emerge about Switzerland's dealings with Hitler's Germany during World War II and Swiss banks' slowness to return money that the Nazis stole from Holocaust victims.

The Swiss are also in the midst of a long economic downturn, and are eager to avoid further damage to their country's upright image and to banking, the crown jewel of their economy.

Swiss legislators across the political spectrum have called for an inquiry into how much Marshal Mobutu may have deposited here. The Zairian rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, said in an interview with a German radio station last month that he would demand an accounting from the Swiss once he took power.

"Apart from the moral and legal reasons for returning the money to Zaire's people, other countries do not understand this practice of taking such money, and it hurts our image abroad and causes continued debate about our banking," said Christian Grobet, a member of the Swiss Parliament.

Last month, the seven-man Federal Council, Switzerland's governing body, considered freezing accounts linked to Marshal Mobutu but held back. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Livio Zanoli, explained that no official demand had been made to block assets or to open a criminal investigation of the money and that no other nation had done that.

In an interview with the Swiss national radio, Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger added that Marshal Mobutu, "in terms of international law, is a head of state."

Of the Mobutu money, Mr. Villiger noted that "there might not be so much here."

No one really knows because the

amount of such accounts or their location in specific Swiss banks need not be disclosed unless the federal government requires it.

Nevertheless, if the governing council acted to freeze the assets, the banks would then be legally obliged to report to the country's banking commission which accounts are in Marshal Mobutu's name, and how much money is in them. Swiss banking law has been changed in recent years to require that banks know who their depositors are, rather than allowing them to deposit money in anonymous accounts.

That does not guarantee full disclosure, however. Dictators, drug dealers and tax evaders can and do use false names or send relatives or friends to do their banking. That was the case with Raul Salinas de Gortari, brother of Mexico's former president, who used a phony passport with another name when he deposited money in Geneva's Banque Pictet & Cie. His wife was later arrested trying to close the \$84 million account.

In Marshal Mobutu's case, the Swiss Banking Commission took the unusual step of reporting last month that the 12 largest banks have denied holding Mobutu deposits.

"Either banks have chucked him out, or he has left himself," said Daniel Zuberbuehler, managing director of the commission. "There's no excuse to take money from someone who is known to be corrupt. And it certainly would not be billions in Swiss banks."

Still, many people remain skeptical that Marshal Mobutu has abandoned Switzerland.

"The banks said that about the Marcos monies, too," said Mascha Madorin, an economist for the Action Swiss Financial Center, an organization that campaigns for government controls on the secret accounts. "And the wartime monies. But then when they looked, they found them."

ALIENS: They May Be Quite Close By

Continued from Page 1

elsewhere. In the past, exobiologists always focused on surface life, he said.

"Now we've found that life on Earth doesn't need light and can exist under extreme conditions we never expected," he added. "Those aren't so different from what exists on other planets. So the probability that life may have arisen somewhere else in this solar system has gone up."

Bruce Murray, a scientist at the California Institute of Technology and president of the Planetary Society, a private group in Pasadena that backs space exploration, said the exobiology fervor was being fed by the recent findings about Mars, Europa and extraterrestrial planets.

"The confluence of new discoveries is incredible," Mr. Murray said. "They're driving the paradigm shift."

Thomas Kuhn, one of the century's

leading historians of science, coined the term "paradigm shift" in the 1960s to describe how plodding science sometimes breaks into revolutionary periods in which old frameworks are quickly torn down and new ones erected. By all accounts, the field of exobiology is now in such ferment.

The tumult is changing not only mind-sets but also exploratory plans. The National Science Foundation, the government's main source of financing for basic science, recently started a program called Life in Extreme Environments, which aims to study terrestrial dark, helms and ices for clues to the existence of otherworldly life. NASA is revamping its approach to alien hunts. Biologists are being hired to help shape the agenda as other agency experts revisit and revise plans for existing probes of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as a first step toward the development of new missions.

Skeleton Identified As Martin Bormann

AGENCY FRANCE PRESSE

FRANKFURT — Human remains found in Berlin in 1972 are definitely those of Martin Bormann, Hitler's secretary and senior adviser, the prosecutor's office in the Hesse region said Tuesday.

Bormann's children have said that they want genetic tests carried out on the remains to remove any doubt about their identity.

But a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office said the authorities were "100 percent" sure the skeleton was Bormann's, who disappeared after Hitler's suicide in 1945.

His family agreed to provide blood samples for the genetic tests, but the spokeswoman said she could not say when a result would be available.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



A scene from Michael Winterbottom's "Welcome to Sarajevo," shot in London and Sarajevo, with Woody Harrelson playing a TV correspondent.

Jeanne Moreau and the Pleasure of Movies

By Joan Dupont
International Herald Tribune

CANNES — Poised on a banquet table among Champagne bottles, she sang "Parlez-moi d'amour," a dreamy siren presiding over a feast that lasted forever. That was Cannes 40 years ago, long lunches, short films, scandalous nights. "I was just standing there, somebody asked me to sing," recalls Jeanne Moreau, who has grown up with the festival and will preside over the 50th anniversary ceremonies. "That was a Balm I was wearing, but the year of my humiliation was the year I wore that polka-dot bathing suit. Imagine a pensionnaire from the Comedie Francaise half-nude on the beach!"

she will promote a festival that she is preparing, a small response to giant Cannes: The Equinox Film Festival of European independent films, to be set in Santa Monica, California. "Yes, Cannes has become gigantic," she says, "but my pleasure is still the same, seeing the movies. One day I'll come in-cognito, and see them all."

This year, the selection has been deprived of major directors for ideological reasons: The Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami has been forbidden to at-

50TH CANNES FESTIVAL

tend, China has withdrawn Zhang Yimou's "Keep Cool" — a comedy that can hardly be accused of political resonance — and government officials confiscated the passport of Zhang Yuan (the prize-winning director of "Beijing Bastards"), whose "East Palace, West Palace," about the underground gay community is slated for Un Certain Regard. The most fervent ideological film in competition may turn out to be "Al Massir" (Destiny), by Egypt's good genie Youssef Chahine, the man with the musical comedy touch, who pits the forces of enlightenment against fundamentalist obscurantism.

The festival opens with Luc Besson's "The Fifth Element," a stylish futurist frolic starring Bruce Willis and Gary

Oldman, shot at Pinewood studios in England, costumed by Jean Paul Gaultier, scored by Eric Serra, produced by Gaumont, and presented out of competition. "The Fifth Element" will be released in France, the United States and Australia this week. Another heavy-weight, Matthieu Kassovitz's "Assassins," is in the nouveau film noir genre, with Michel Serrault playing a hired killer. At the other extreme, French cinema of the fin de siècle includes Philippe Harel's first-person "La Femme Defendue" and Manuel Poirier's road movie, "Western," as well as Robert Guédiguian's "Marius et Jeannette," which opens Un Certain Regard.

Expanding co-production has created some intriguing cross-breeds: Besson is the producer of Oldman's directing debut, "Nil by Mouth," portraying a family in the south of London, music by Eric Clapton; a French team that includes Gerard Depardieu is behind Nick Casavetes's "She's So Lovely," from a script by his late father, John, starring his mother Gene Rowlands, Sean Penn and John Travolta. And Jeremy Thomas of Britain produced Johnny Depp's debut feature, "The Brave," adapted from Gregory McDonald's novel, starring Depp and Marlon Brando, music by Iggy Pop.

Literary adaptations abound. Ang Lee's "The Ice Storm," adapted from

Rick Moody's novel, is set in Connecticut in the political '70s and features Kevin Kline, Joan Allen and Sigourney Weaver; Curt Hanson's "L.A. Confidential," from James Ellroy's novel, takes place on the seamy side of the LAPD in the '50s. Canadian director Atom Egoyan's "The Sweet Hereafter" is adapted from Russell Banks's novel: Banks's loners with their family secrets seem well suited to Egoyan's eye for uncovering the bizarre in the banal. Italy has Marco Bellocchio's "Il Principe di Hombourg," from Heinrich von Kleist's play, and Francesco Rosi's "La Tregua" (The Truce), from Primo Levi's 1963 memoirs of the ordeal that continued after Auschwitz, in which John Turturro plays the writer.

Michael Haneke, who made the ominous "Benny's Video," is in competition with "Funny Games," which promises to be even more ominous. Wim Wenders is back with "The End of Violence." Another Palme d'Or winner, Shohei Imamura ("The Ballad of Narayama"), presents "Unagi" (The Eel), about a man true to his jail mate, a pet eel; Idrissa Ouedraogo from Burkina Faso is here with "Kini et Adams" about buddies looking for a way out of the village. Michael Winterbottom shot "Welcome to Sarajevo" in London and Sarajevo, with Woody Harrelson playing an American television correspondent. The only woman in competition is a new face: Samantha Lang, an Australian, presenting "The Well."

Light entertainment is not writ large on the program: "Welcome to Woop Woop," by Stephen Elliott ("The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"), about a New York con-man trapped in the back lands, may be a welcome exception. From Hong Kong comes maverick Wong Kar-wai's "Happy Together": In an opening scene that reportedly will rock the bunker, Leslie Cheung and Tony Leung are the happy couple.

Mozart's 'Tito' At Paris Opera

A Re-Emergence of 1791 Work

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito" — his last written opera and next to last performed — was brought into being in baleful conditions and only in the latter part of this century has it begun to emerge from oblivion.

It was a last-minute commission from Prague for the coronation of Leopold II as king of Bohemia. It was taken on by Mozart, apparently after Salieri's refusal on the ground that he was too busy, and composed in what must have been chaotic conditions at the end of the summer of 1791, interrupting the final touches to "The Magic Flute."

The subject was imposed — Pietro Metastasio's almost 60-year-old libretto, shortened and modernized. For Mozart it was a late return to opera seria, an already old-fashioned form he had not touched in 10 years. Yet it contains some of his finest, most deeply felt music. It must have touched a responsive chord, with its Masonic-like ideals of magnanimity and tolerance — which the Emperor Titus of the opera's title carries to such extremes in forgiving his would-be assassins.

The problem for any stage director, however, is to introduce some semblance of activity into what, despite its revisions, is a very static business. In the new production at the Palais Garnier, Willy Decker and his designer, John Macfarlane, grapple with the problem with one, if not total, success.

The opera opens with the center of the stage occupied by a huge cube of marble or granite that progressively crumbles to

reveal a huge stone head, seen only from a rear angle — the official public face of the emperor, in contrast to the emotionally torn human whose clemency wins over the harsh judgments that political reality would demand.

A number of props are introduced, notably a cardboard crown that gets quite a bit of symbolic handling in the course of the various conspiracies. Much of the action takes place in front of painted drop curtains with such images as outstretched arms reaching for a crown or a hand propelling a shilleto through a blood-red heart.

Publio, the emperor's law-enforcing factotum, is dressed in black, with a highly stylized wig, as is the entire chorus, the censorious opponents of any kind of clemency.

Musically, matters were in the steady hands of Armin Jordan, who conducted with a nice balance of forward moving firmness and voice-friendly relaxation. In the title role, the tenor Keith Lewis brought ample tone and noble bearing to Tito's terrible emotional conflicts, aiding credibility in some rather incredible situations. As Vitellia, the chief villainess, Cynthia Lawrence met the extreme difficulties of the role head on, although at times she seemed at the edge of vocal control in reaching for dramatic impact.

Anne Sofie von Otter excelled in the originally castrato role of Sexto, torn improbably between friendship for Tito and emotional submission to Vitellia's ambitions. Christine Schaefer and Angelika Kirchschlager were appealing as the Servilia-Annio duo, and David Pittsinger's rich bass-baritone and imposing presence made Publio a character to reckon with.



Anne Sofie von Otter, left, and Keith Lewis in "La Clemenza di Tito."

'Frankly Scarlett,' a Fling at Farce

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The funny thing about farces is how very unfunny they often tend to be. We had in this country, following hard upon the Parisian lead of Feydeau, an honorable tradition that ran from Ben Travers and Vernon Sylvaine to Ray Cooney, but with the darkening of Neil Simon and Alan Ayckbourn, the line seems to have ended somewhere in the 1960s.

Since then there has been Michael Frayn's wondrously inventive backstage "Noises Off," but elsewhere not a lot. Just as "Sleuth" killed off the

stage thriller by being so much better than any of its postwar rivals, so "Noises Off" seems to have paralyzed other farce writers. Those few who do still attempt it seem to be operating in a time warp.

In which case, maybe the answer is to write farces still set in the heyday of their genre: that, on at least one level, would seem to be the thinking behind "Frankly Scarlett" at the King's Head.

The idea is enviable: We know, from successive memoirs and biographies of the principals involved, that the shooting of "Gone With the Wind" in 1939 was often vastly more dramatic behind the camera than on the screen.

The megalomaniac obsessions of Selznick, the single-minded British determination of Vivien Leigh to land the leading role, Clark Gable's eagerness

LONDON THEATRE

to fire the director, George Cukor, because they had once had a brief gay affair — all this is the stuff of high drama and also, with a minimal twist, of high farce.

So the authors Peter Morris and Phillip George, who also directs, are into strong movie-buff territory. Unfortunately they are also into Earl Grey, an off-Broadway mimic who does impressions of all the Scarlett wannabes — Tallulah Bankhead, Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn — without telling us which one he is doing at the time.

As Grey's impressions are a little underdeveloped, the evening fast degenerates into one of those horrendous off-Broadway cabarets in which female impersonators remind us why none of them have ever really made good.

And although the King's Head has pulled together an strong cast, from Peter Polycarpou as Selznick to Nicholas Colicos as Clark Gable, there comes that awful moment about halfway into the first act when you realize that they are having lots more fun onstage than we are off it.

At the neighboring Almeida, now the most fashionable of all London theaters and sometimes the most inventive, the director Phyllida Lloyd and the translator-poet Peter Oswald have come up with a rich and rare treat, Federico Garcia Lorca's "Dona Rosita the Spinster," which though written in his richest dramatic period, between "Yerma" and "Bernarda Alba" in 1935, remains curiously unknown.

A wonderfully starchy cast (Eleanor Bron, Phoebe Nicholls, Clive Swift, Celia Imrie

and Kathryn Hunter) now bring to life a bittersweet folk fable about love and betrayal and loneliness and the ravages of time, in which each character gets his or her moment center-stage to explain precisely what has gone wrong with the life they originally envisaged.

What marks out Garcia Lorca's unique territory is that constant sense of a chill coming over sunny evenings, of man destroying God's work, of women doomed to be loved and lost.

And finally, at the Lyric Hammersmith, an equally rare Tennessee Williams rediscovery but one which, unlike the Garcia Lorca, does its author no posthumous good of any kind. "Out Cry" dates from 1967, when it was briefly seen here with Peter Wyngarde and Mary Ure. You would need to be a psychiatrist deep in old Tennessee to appreciate fully this shambolic scream from the family closet.

Two American actors, a brother and a sister, arrive in a small town to discover that they have been abandoned by a bankrupt touring company. Undeterred, they decide to do their weary show there and then, and the show is of course the story of their tortured sibling lives. Echoing through the empty theater are half-remembered moments of relative madness from "Streetcar," the flower-power symbolism of "Rose Tattoo," the incestuous brother and sister of countless other plays and even the hints of lost stardom from "Sweet Bird of Youth."

But none of this hangs together, and it is not the fault of the director, Timothy Walker, that his two players, Sara Stewart and Jason Merrells, flail around in what seems increasingly to be a parody of all that once mattered about Williams.

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Indonesia Demands 10% of All New Mines

MEDIA MARKETS
Post-Product

CURRENT

Other Dollar Values

Country	Unit	Value
Argentina	Argentine Peso	100 = 1
Australia	Australian Dollar	100 = 1
Canada	Canadian Dollar	100 = 1
France	French Franc	100 = 1
Germany	German Mark	100 = 1
Italy	Italian Lira	100 = 1
Japan	Japanese Yen	100 = 1
UK	British Pound	100 = 1
US	US Dollar	100 = 1

Forward Rates

Country	Unit	Value
Argentina	Argentine Peso	100 = 1
Australia	Australian Dollar	100 = 1
Canada	Canadian Dollar	100 = 1
France	French Franc	100 = 1
Germany	German Mark	100 = 1
Italy	Italian Lira	100 = 1
Japan	Japanese Yen	100 = 1
UK	British Pound	100 = 1
US	US Dollar	100 = 1

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Indonesia Demands 10% of All New Mines

Bloomberg News
JAKARTA—Regulations prompted by the controversy surrounding Bre-X Minerals Ltd. will require new mining projects to set aside a 10 percent interest for the government, Indonesia's minister of mines and energy said Tuesday. Executives of mining companies said the request could discourage investment in Indonesia.

Indonesia has asked Newmont Mining Corp. to give it a 10 percent stake in the stalled \$1.5 billion Batu Hijab copper and gold project, I.B. Sudjana, the minister of mines and energy, said.

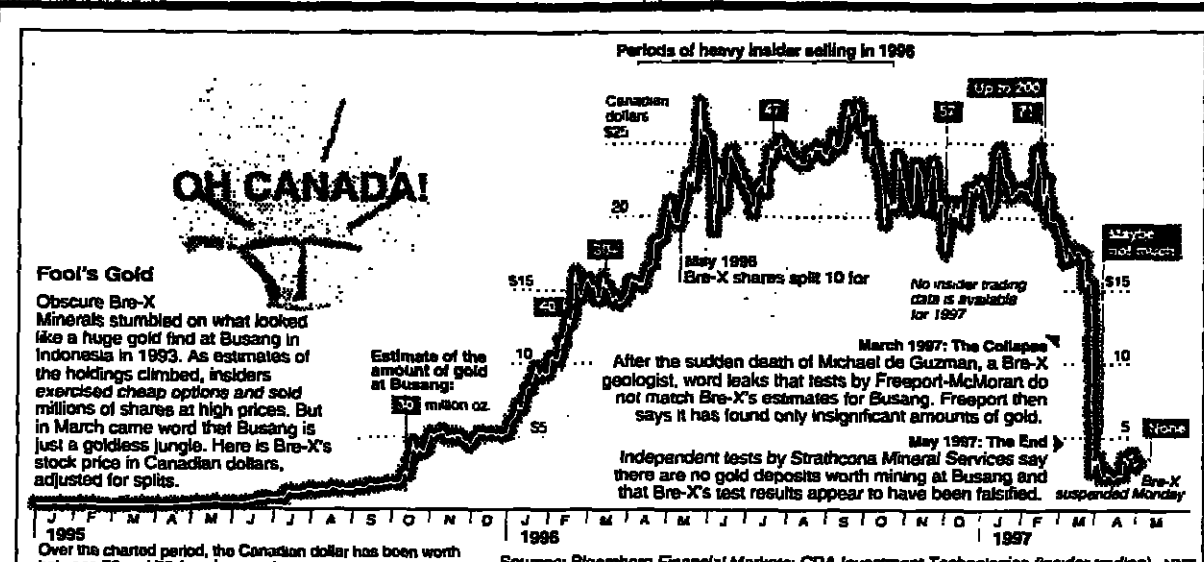
"Ten percent isn't too much to give," he said, adding that companies close to a daughter of President Suharto were interested in a stake as well.

"We have no interest in giving the government a stake if we don't have to," said Erik Hamer, president director of PT Newmont Nusa Tenggara, Newmont's Indonesian unit.

An independent auditor found that Bre-X's deposit in Borneo, once touted as the largest gold find ever, was a hoax. Bre-X shares traded in Toronto lost 97 percent of their value Tuesday, tumbling to 8.5 Canadian cents (6 U.S. cents), down 3.215 dollars. The stock, which was suspended from trading Monday, broke the record for a single issue on the Toronto Stock Exchange, with volume reported at 52.33 million shares as the market was closing.

Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, the eldest daughter of President Suharto, teamed up with Barrick Gold Corp. of Canada last year to try to buy a stake in Bre-X's now-infamous Bunsang gold project in Borneo. Mr. Sudjana said that Bre-X might not get the necessary permits if it did not work with Barrick. The threat was later withdrawn. In Toronto, Jack Geller, chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission, said the panel had asked the police for a criminal investigation of the Bre-X scandal.

On the Nasdaq exchange, trading of Bre-X shares was halted until next Tuesday, when company officials have been asked to appear at a hearing of the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Panel.



Canada, the Wild North of Stocks

Bre-X Is Just Latest Fraud From Its Lightly Regulated Markets

By Floyd Norris
New York Times Service
NEW YORK—The Bre-X Minerals Ltd. fraud, in which a gold find said to be worth billions of dollars turned out to have no gold worth mining, may turn out to be the most costly stock-market fraud ever. But in one respect, it was a case of déjà vu: Once again, investors had lost big by purchasing Canadian stocks.

Canadian markets are hardly the only ones ever to have been marred by fraud. Britain had Robert Maxwell, the media baron whose companies were real but whose balance sheets were not; the U.S. markets have contributed a long list of fraudsters, among them Barry Minkow, the teenage wonder whose carpet-cleaning business, ZZZZ Best, was mostly fictitious, and Crazy Eddie Antar, the crooked electronics salesman.

But it does seem as though Canada produces more stock-market fraud, at least on a per-capita basis, than a lot of other countries. Unlike other major industrial nations, Canada has no national regulator for securities; it leaves the task to the provinces, which pursue it with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Efforts at reform have been incomplete. Now, with Bre-X, Canadian stock fraud has hit a new peak, at least in

terms of dollars. At its height last autumn, Bre-X was valued by the stock market at more than \$4 billion. There have been other companies that gained large valuations without anything behind them, but never this large.

In one sense, Bre-X represents an unfortunate tradition, that of the junior mining company, for which the Vancouver and Alberta stock exchanges have been notorious since scandals involving phony Canadian uranium companies erupted four decades ago. The listing rules for junior companies are lax, and there have been many companies that traded for far more than they turned out to be worth.

There have been assorted efforts at reform in Canada, and some progress. A British Columbia commission, recommending reforms in 1994, denounced "the continuing occurrence of scams, swindles and market manipulations" in the Vancouver market. Changes have been made since, but some of the commission's most important proposals were rejected.

Canadian officials resent their markets' bad image, which Rowland Fleming, the president of the Toronto Stock Exchange, on Monday called a "legacy factor with the Vancouver Stock Exchange, rather than a reality today."

Bre-X "was a scam of unprecedented proportions," he said, but scams have happened in the United States, too.

Jack Geller, chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission, said Canada's reputation for securities fraud "is not fair." "The Toronto exchange, he said, "is one of the world's most satisfactory exchanges." And Vancouver and Alberta? "I don't comment on exchanges outside my jurisdiction," he said.

American securities regulators speak with dispassion of frauds from Canada, but only when assured they will not be identified. "There are international sensibilities here," one said.

But Deborah Berner, the Washington state securities administrator, said she was getting fewer complaints about Canadian frauds than she used to.

American regulators concede that frauds do emerge in the United States as well. Bre-X was able to gain a listing on the Nasdaq national market, and Mr. Fleming said that even in respect he could not see any reason for an exchange to have refused to list it.

Mr. Geller said laws apparently had been broken in the Bre-X case and that it was thus up to the police, not his agency, to investigate. But, he said, if the police did refer any securities violations to him, he would act.

Mr. Fleming said he hoped something good would come out of the scandal. "Maybe this will act as the much-needed stimulus to get Canada to have a national securities regulator," he said.

Birth of a Chip: Intel Tests (Again) for Flaw

Pentium II - in More Ways Than One

By Lawrence M. Fisher
New York Times Service
SAN FRANCISCO—Intel Corp. will not formally introduce its Pentium II microprocessor until Wednesday, but the World Wide Web is already buzzing with reports of a flaw that causes the new chip to make errors in some complex mathematical calculations.

Two and a half years ago, a similar flaw in the original Pentium chip caused a crisis for Intel when the company initially stonewalled customers, only to later relent and offer refunds. The problem was corrected, and Intel recovered from the misstep.

The Pentium II is a version of the Pentium Pro, a more advanced chip than the original Pentium, and it will incorporate new multimedia technology. The bug, which reportedly also afflicts the Pentium Pro, was disclosed by Robert Collins, a Silicon Valley engineer who maintains a Web site called Intel Secrets. Mr. Collins said the bug had been brought to his attention by a professor who would not identify himself.

Though the chip, which is intended for high-end desktop computers, will not officially be introduced until Wednesday, Intel has been shipping the Pentium II to customers, and some have appeared on the gray market, he said.

Intel shares fell \$4.625 in Nasdaq trading, to \$157.875.

[Intel said Tuesday that it was investigating the flaw. The Associated Press reported. The company said it expected to figure out the problem by the end of the week and promised to make its findings public. It also said that if an error did exist, it would come up with a solution as soon as possible. The problem will not delay the planned introduction of the chip, Intel said.]

A spokesman for the company said the problem appeared to crop up when a computer was required to perform a certain obscure calculation. Intel said engineers were running tests on the chips but that it had no plans to recall them.

Analysts said they were confident that Intel would deal with the issue and avoid a rerun of the 1994 drama. A successful introduction of the Pentium II is important because, for the first time in years, Intel has a competitor with a comparable but faster chip: Advanced Micro Devices Inc., with its K6. Intel is relying on the Pentium II to restore its bragging rights about speed.

An Auchan-Agnelli Accord

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
MILAN—A major French retailer and an investment company affiliated with the Agnelli family said Tuesday they would form a venture that would control Italy's largest retailer, La Rinascente SpA.

As part of the accord, Auchan SA of France will sell Rinascente four shopping centers in Italy and one under construction for about 530 billion lire (\$309.4 million).

Rinascente plans to pay for the acquisition by raising 390 billion lire in a capital increase and selling 390 billion lire in 4.5 percent, six-year bonds through Mediobanca SpA.

The agreement represents the latest jockeying among Europe's largest retailers to increase market share. Last year, Auchan acquired Docks de France SA.

Once the transaction is completed, Auchan, an operator of hypermarkets, and IFIL SpA, an investment company controlled by the Agnelli family, will create a company that will hold the 40.5 percent stake in Rinascente currently held by IFIL's Eufrin unit.

"This accord opens a period of long-term strict collaboration between our two family groups," Gerard Mulliez, chairman of Auchan's advisory board, said.

Once the transaction is completed, IFIL will control a 51 percent stake, and Auchan will have 49 percent plus an option to buy 1 percent from its partner within 10 years.

Rinascente shares rose 14 lire to 9,358 Tuesday before trading in the stock was halted. IFIL shares rose 34 to 4,959.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

MEDIA MARKETS

Post-Production Feels the Squeeze

By Trip Gabriel
New York Times Service
These are Hell Weeks in the movie business, the frenzied period before the release of summer blockbusters, when armies of workers perform the many technical tasks that go by the name of post-production: editing, scoring, sound-mixing, creating digital effects.

Little understood outside the industry, post-production is essential if raw footage shot on a set is to be alchemized into a polished movie. The laborious process has traditionally taken longer than the 20 or so weeks of actual filming on a major studio release.

But in recent years the incentive to crunch post-production schedules has increased as studios advance the release dates of movies to avoid competition from other films or to earn a quicker return on \$100 million investments.

This may also be partly because digital technology has given some studios the impression—falsely, according to many involved—that the pace can easily be quickened.

"Everybody is frantically trying to get pictures into the marketplace," said Ron Burdett, chairman of the International Teleproduction Society, a trade group of 300 companies in the United States involved in the technical end of filmmaking.

The panic is greater than ever this year as major studios plan to release 15 or more films, many heavy with digital effects, between mid-May and August.

Post-production for "Speed 2: Cruise Control," a megabudget action-film sequel due this summer, was squeezed down to 15 weeks when the release date of the film was advanced from late July to June 13.

"It's enormous pressure," the director, Jan De Bont said. "You have to double the crew size."

Post-production is also causing migraines for the \$180 million "Titanic," the most expensive movie ever made. Workers on the film, which is directed by James Cameron, say its July 2 release date cannot help but be pushed back by the demands of editing miles of footage.

Post-production crews working on "Titanic" are being told to aim for a late-July release, even though the two studios making the movie, Paramount and Twentieth Century-Fox, have not yet announced the expected delay.

"We're going to bring in the tents and the cots," said Gloria Borders, general manager of George Lucas's Skywalker Sound in Northern California, who plans to hire 50 sound editors next month instead of the customary six. "It'll be like going to work on Desert Storm."

At special-effects shops like Mr. Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic, in editing rooms at Hollywood studios, and at independent "post" houses throughout the Los Angeles area, the work habits common to Silicon Valley prevail: 80-hour weeks, catnaps on office cots, trips home lasting only long

enough to assure spouses that the film worker has not run off.

Although there is a general sequence to post-production, the tasks overlap, particularly on films with shortened schedules. Ideally, once the director has shouted "It's a wrap!" an editor reviews the multiple takes of each scene and splices them together.

A rough version of the film then goes to a composer, who writes a score; to digital-effects houses, which insert computer-generated aliens or tornadoes into filmed scenes with actors, and to sound editors, who clean up background noises and re-record muddy dialogue with the actors in a studio.

Finally, sound mixers marry the many tracks of dialogue, sound effects and music together.

In these high-speed days, these tasks routinely are shortened by hiring more people and renting more equipment, dividing the work among teams. The problem then is coordination: With many tasks proceeding at once, changes made by one team must be instantly accommodated by the others.

But, like the end man in a game of snap the whip, those at the tail end of the post-production process, such as composers and mixers, find it hard to hold on for the ride.

"While we're working, every day they're cutting," said Chris Ward, a music arranger on "Speed 2," who must revise the score to fit each newly

See HTS, Page 18

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	FF	Yen	Sc	Sw	DK	Nor
American	1.0000	0.6936	1.9360	6.5596	106.36	136.76	8.0000	4.6633	13.7603
British	1.4563	1.0000	2.9366	9.3750	154.90	193.60	5.6569	3.1258	96.3490
French	0.1936	0.1063	1.0000	16.6594	166.59	206.48	0.9375	0.5038	15.7500
German	0.0521	0.0277	0.0595	1.0000	10.6383	130.81	0.3333	0.1936	6.5596
Italian	0.0193	0.0106	0.0256	0.0595	5.9361	73.76	0.1250	0.0729	23.3600
Japanese	0.0094	0.0051	0.0125	0.0256	1.0000	123.76	0.0370	0.0214	6.8039
Spanish	0.0166	0.0089	0.0214	0.0595	1.0000	123.76	0.0370	0.0214	6.8039
Swedish	0.2065	0.1118	0.2667	0.6559	10.6383	130.81	1.0000	0.5038	15.7500
Swiss	0.7556	0.4048	0.9375	2.3333	23.3600	283.76	0.9375	1.0000	30.9375
Danish	0.2146	0.1154	0.2708	0.6559	10.6383	130.81	0.5038	1.0000	30.9375
Norwegian	0.1376	0.0729	0.1665	0.4167	4.1667	50.00	0.4167	0.2146	1.0000
Other Dollar Values									
Argentine peso	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Australian dollar	1.0000	0.6936	1.9360	6.5596	106.36	136.76	8.0000	4.6633	13.7603
Canadian dollar	1.0000	0.6936	1.9360	6.5596	106.36	136.76	8.0000	4.6633	13.7603
Chinese yuan	8.2742	4.5455	11.8240	37.9629	600.00	744.00	31.2500	17.2414	537.9629
Czech koruna	20.371	10.985	27.061	84.804	1367.10	1683.87	60.0000	33.3333	1020.371
Danish krone	6.46	3.46	8.46	21.46	34.6	42.76	1.6667	0.9375	28.36
East German mark	1.0000	0.6936	1.9360	6.5596	106.36	136.76	8.0000	4.6633	13.7603
Malaysian ringgit	2.34	1.25	3.12	7.92	127.00	156.25	5.0000	2.7778	84.3750
Forward Rates									
Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	120-day	150-day	180-day	210-day	240-day	360-day
Swiss franc	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Japanese yen	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00
Swiss franc	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Libor-Libor Rates									
1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
1-year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Key Money Rates									
Discount rate	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Federal funds	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
90-day CD dealers	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
180-day CP dealers	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
3-month Treasury bill	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
1-year Treasury bill	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
2-year Treasury bill	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
5-year Treasury note	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
7-year Treasury note	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
10-year Treasury note	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
30-year Treasury bond	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Source: Reuters, Lloyds Bank. Rates applicable to interest deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).									

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Republic National Bank of New York, 1945

EUROPE

Ex-Chief Of Alcatel Sentenced

Suicide Is Fined, but Term Is Suspended

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

EVRY, France — The former chairman of Alcatel Alsthom SA, the French industrial giant, received a three-year suspended sentence and was fined Tuesday for using company funds to pay for security work on his private homes.

Pierre Suard, who was forced to resign in June 1995 after being placed under judicial investigation, was convicted by a district court in the Paris suburb of Evry of abusing corporate funds. He was fined 2 million francs (\$342,000).

About 40 other executives also were convicted in the case.

Mr. Suard, 62, also was ordered to repay 4.9 million francs to Alcatel Alsthom, the cost of the security systems put in his three homes.

His lawyer said his client would appeal. "This condemnation is unjust, we dispute the very principle, and we are immediately going to submit an appeal," the lawyer, Maurice Guigui, said.

Mr. Suard told the court he had taken the security measures on the advice of the government after the head of the automaker Renault was assassinated in 1986 by members of a terrorist group, Action Directe.

Investigation revealed, however, that workers had been paid only 60 percent of the normal rate for their work on two of his homes in the Paris region and another in the French Alps in the 1980s. It also showed that Mr. Suard had authorized them to overbill the Alcatel CIT unit for other services rendered.

Pierre Guichet, former chairman of Alcatel CIT, was acquitted of abuse of corporate funds but was fined 100,000 francs for forgery.

Among others convicted in the case were the two Alcatel CIT managers who disclosed the matter in 1993 after being fired, Jose Corral and Antonio Leal. Leal was ordered to jail for three years and fined 2 million francs, and Corral was sentenced to six months in prison plus an 18-month suspended sentence and fined 300,000 francs.

(Reuters, AFP, APX)

Bonn Discounts a Drop in Jobless Rate

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BONN — The German unemployment rate fell, government figures indicated Tuesday, but seasonal factors accounted for much of the drop, and a senior government official said economic growth was "too weak" to change the trend in the country's unemployment situation.

The jobless rate, not allowing for swings in seasonal employment, fell to 11.3 percent from 11.7 percent in March.

The number of unemployed workers in Germany dropped to 4.35 million in April from 4.48 million in March. But that decline was due "entirely to seasonal factors," Bernhard Jagoda, the head of the Federal Labor Office, said.

Taking seasonal factors into account, the number of jobless workers actually rose by 8,000 from March to April, Mr. Jagoda said.

Gerhard Kleinherr, a Labor Office economist, said a first-quarter slowdown in growth had discouraged some employers from hiring.

The economy would have to grow more than 3 percent for employment to rise, and this was not likely to happen, he said.

The federal government has predicted economic expansion of 2.5 percent this year. But a Bundesbank council member, Klaus-Dieter Kuehnbacher, said Tuesday that forecast was too optimistic. He predicted expansion of 2.25 percent.

Mr. Jagoda said the April jobless data were "only a continuation of the seasonal spring recovery."

He said the latest seasonally adjusted data, which showed the labor force shrinking by about 70,000 to 33.72 million people in February after falling by 150,000 in January, indicated "a continued negative tendency."

Mr. Jagoda added, "The economic impulses are still too weak to bring about a turnaround in the German labor market."

German joblessness rose to a postwar record in the first two

months of the year. The International Monetary Fund said in its latest report that 80 percent of the country's unemployment was a result of "structural burdens" such as high nonwage costs and inflexible labor laws.

Separately, the government said new manufacturing orders rose 1.1 percent in March, with orders from abroad rising 2.0 percent, confirming that Germany's growth is still largely driven by exports.

"Overseas demand is still the main support for the economy," Thomas Mayer, an economist with Goldman Sachs Ltd., said. "Growth is not creating jobs."

(Bloomberg, AP, AFP)

Italian Inflation Slows to 28-Year Low of 1.7%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MILAN — Inflation slowed to its lowest level in 28 years in April in Italy, fueling speculation that the Bank of Italy may move to lower interest rates soon.

Figures released Tuesday by the national statistics institute Istat showed consumer price increases slowed to 1.7 percent year-on-year last month, compared with 2.2 percent in March, the tamest price performance since 12 months that ended in April 1969.

The monthly rate for April was 0.1 percent, the same as the March rate.

Italian bond and futures prices climbed after the news, which was viewed as increasing chances that the Bank of Italy could cut its official discount rate 50 to 75 basis points in the near future. A basis

point is a hundredth of a percentage point. The discount rate, which now stands at 6.75 percent, was last reduced in January.

"The markets are buoyant because people are speculating on the possibility of a cut," Pio De Gregorio, an economist at NatWest Markets in Milan, said.

The rate of price increases has dwindled sharply in the past year, as shown by the year-on-year inflation rate of 4.5 percent posted in April 1996. Economists say this is due to depressed domestic demand, the high cost of credit and a favorable trend in international commodity prices.

Government ministers and business executives have been calling for interest rates to be brought down, but Mr. De Gregorio said he expected their hopes to be disappointed in the near term.

Growth in U.S. Spurs Adidas to 33% Profit Rise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HERZOGENAUACH, Germany — Adidas AG said Tuesday that its first-quarter net profit rose 33 percent, helped by strong growth in the United States amid rising sales of shoes and clothing.

Net profit was 169 million Deutsche marks (\$98.2 million), up from 127 million DM a year earlier. Operating profit rose 40 percent, to 219 million DM from 156 million DM. Analysts said the results showed Adidas was reaping the rewards of a four-year marketing campaign, including its recent sponsorship of the New York Yankees

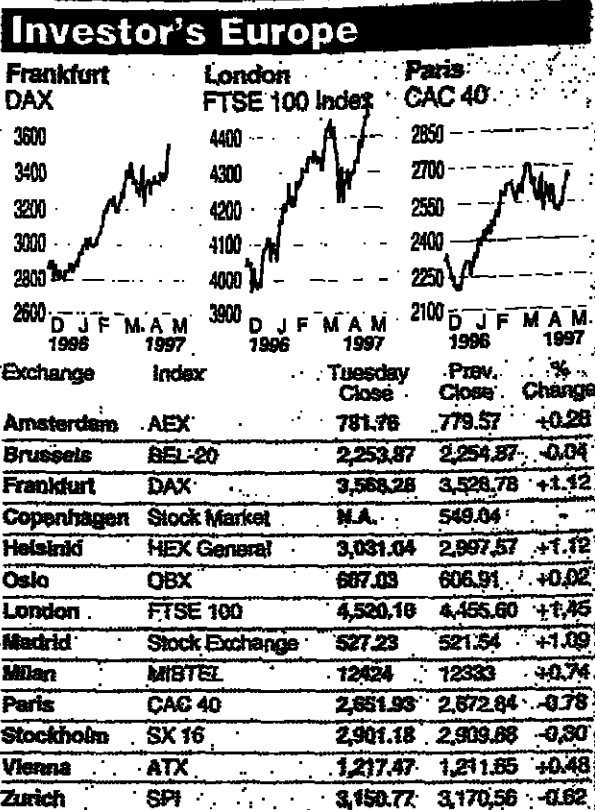
baseball team, aimed at raising its global profile and challenging the market leader, Nike Inc.

"The results are simply a reflection of a very strong company," said Susanne Seibel, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co., who recommends buying the stock.

Adidas's shares rose 1.92 DM to close at 182.42.

Adidas, the fourth-largest seller of sports shoes in the United States behind Nike, Reebok International Ltd. and Fila Holding SpA, raised its U.S. market share to 5.2 percent in 1996 from less than 2 percent in 1992.

Pretax profit in the first quarter



Very briefly:

- British Petroleum Co.'s first-quarter profit rose to £752 million (\$1.22 billion) from £629 million a year earlier, on a current-cost basis. Current-cost profit values oil inventories at current market prices.
- Skandia Insurance AB and Trygg-Hansa AB, Sweden's largest insurers, said first-quarter profits rose about 60 percent from a year earlier. Skandia's operating profit came to 1.48 billion kronor (\$187.5 million), while Trygg-Hansa's pretax profit rose to 1.18 billion kronor.
- Scandinavian Airlines System had a first-quarter pretax loss of 269 million kronor, reversing a profit of 311 million kronor a year earlier.
- Reed Elsevier PLC will team up with Microsoft Corp. to offer its scientific and business publications on the Internet.

Keep Telecom, French Left Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The opposition Socialists, taking a tough stand on privatization before the French parliamentary elections, said Tuesday they would scrap the planned partial sale of France Telecom if they won power.

The party, which polls suggest is gaining on the governing center-right coalition before the two-stage vote on May 25 and June 1, said it would not proceed with the planned sale of 30 percent to 35 percent of the telecommunications giant. This would mean "abandoning the principle of public service," a Socialist spokesman, Francois Hollande, said.

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said the government was counting on money from the France Telecom sale to recapitalize ailing state companies.

Analysts say the state could receive from 48 billion to 73.5 billion francs (\$8.2 billion to \$12.6 billion) from the sale.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, May 6
Prices in local currencies.
Tel Aviv

High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	138.40	138.40	138.10
Alcatel	142.30	142.30	141.70
Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70
Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70
Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70
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Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70
Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70
Alcatel CIT	142.30	142.30	141.70

The Trib Index

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100. Level

World Index	160.01	Change	+2.83	% change	+1.80	year to date	+7.29
Regional Indices							
Asia/Pacific	117.89		+3.82		+3.17		-4.49
Europe	167.27		+2.12		+1.27		+3.77
N. America	187.30		+3.08		+1.68		+15.68
S. America	147.83		+2.23		+1.53		+29.19
Industrial Indices							
Capital goods	195.45		+2.08		+1.08		+14.35
Consumer goods	183.87		+4.41		+2.46		+13.90
Energy	117.75		+3.80		+2.12		+9.98
Finance	186.70		+1.86		+1.62		+0.21
Miscellaneous	161.16		+2.61		+1.85		-0.38
Raw Materials	185.94		+3.40		+1.66		+6.02
Services	147.75		+1.95		+1.34		+7.60
Utilities	135.74		+1.45		+1.08		-5.38

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
National wire prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press

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NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
IBM	100.00	+0.12	1,234,567
MSFT	55.00	+0.25	987,654
GOOG	250.00	+1.50	456,789
AMZN	150.00	+0.80	321,098
APPL	120.00	+0.50	210,987
ORCL	80.00	+0.30	198,765
INTC	40.00	+0.10	187,654
QCOM	70.00	+0.40	176,543
TXN	60.00	+0.20	165,432
WMT	50.00	+0.15	154,321

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
DIS	30.00	+0.10	143,210
BA	45.00	+0.20	132,109
GM	35.00	+0.15	121,098
MS	25.00	+0.10	110,987
CVX	55.00	+0.30	109,876
PG	40.00	+0.15	98,765
KO	30.00	+0.10	87,654
PEP	25.00	+0.10	76,543
MDA	20.00	+0.10	65,432
WDC	15.00	+0.10	54,321

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
YHFC	10.00	+0.05	43,210
WAT	8.00	+0.05	32,109
SWK	7.00	+0.05	21,098
AMT	6.00	+0.05	10,987
TRV	5.00	+0.05	9,876
AXP	4.00	+0.05	8,765
WY	3.00	+0.05	7,654
WAL	2.00	+0.05	6,543
WLT	1.00	+0.05	5,432
WLT	0.50	+0.05	4,321

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
WLT	0.25	+0.05	3,210
WLT	0.10	+0.05	2,109
WLT	0.05	+0.05	1,098
WLT	0.02	+0.05	987
WLT	0.01	+0.05	876
WLT	0.00	+0.05	765
WLT	0.00	+0.05	654
WLT	0.00	+0.05	543
WLT	0.00	+0.05	432
WLT	0.00	+0.05	321

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
WLT	0.00	+0.05	210
WLT	0.00	+0.05	109
WLT	0.00	+0.05	98
WLT	0.00	+0.05	87
WLT	0.00	+0.05	76
WLT	0.00	+0.05	65
WLT	0.00	+0.05	54
WLT	0.00	+0.05	43
WLT	0.00	+0.05	32
WLT	0.00	+0.05	21

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
WLT	0.00	+0.05	10
WLT	0.00	+0.05	9
WLT	0.00	+0.05	8
WLT	0.00	+0.05	7
WLT	0.00	+0.05	6
WLT	0.00	+0.05	5
WLT	0.00	+0.05	4
WLT	0.00	+0.05	3
WLT	0.00	+0.05	2
WLT	0.00	+0.05	1

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
IBM	100.00	+0.12	1,234,567
MSFT	55.00	+0.25	987,654
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WDC	15.00	+0.10	54,321

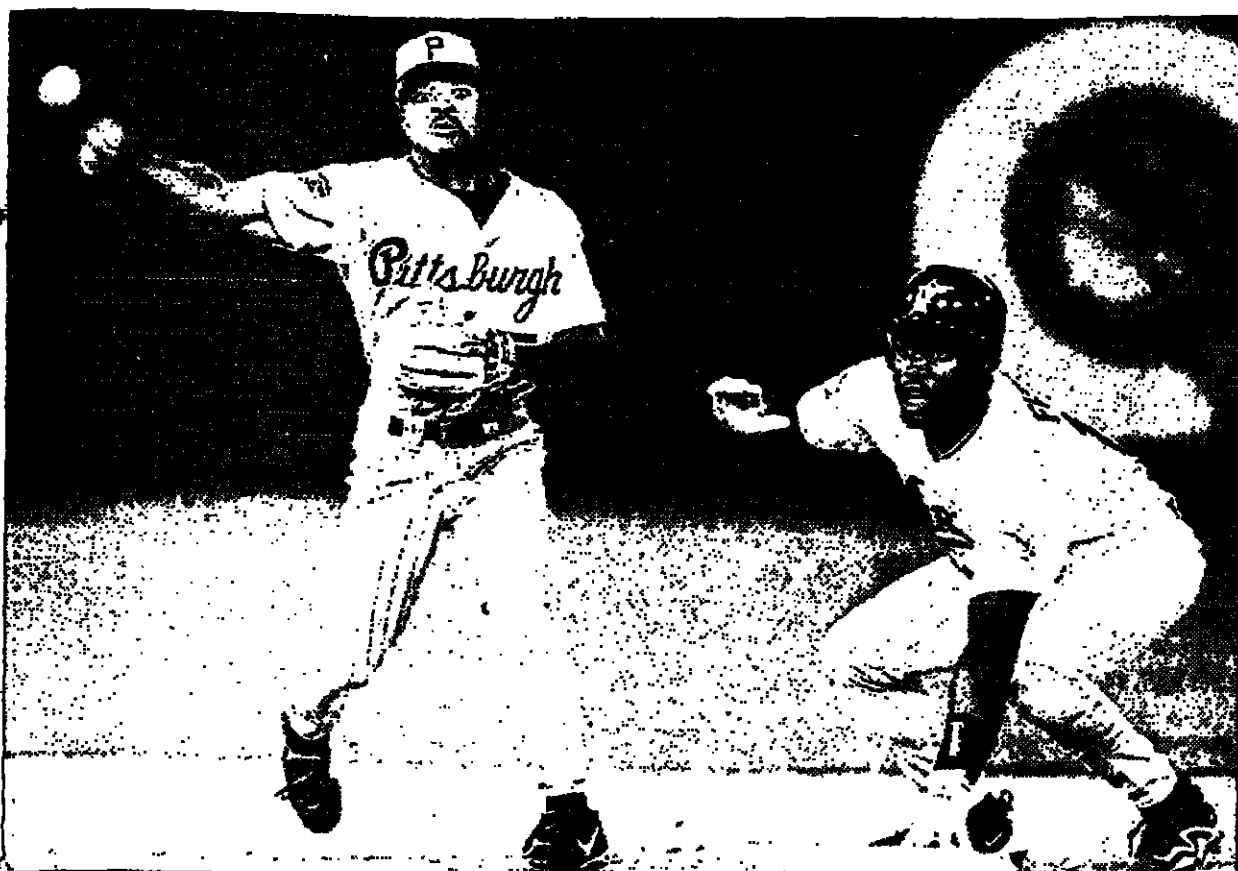
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WLT	0.00	+0.05	9
WLT	0.00	+0.05	8
WLT	0.00	+0.05	7
WLT	0.00	+0.05	6
WLT	0.00	+0.05	5
WLT	0.00	+0.05	4
WLT	0.00	+0.05	3
WLT	0.00	+0.05	2
WLT	0.00	+0.05	1

SPORTS



The Marlins' Cliff Floyd holding on to second base as the Pirates' Tony Womack made a throw to first.

Under Leyland, Marlins Beat Pirates

The Associated Press
Jim Leyland managed for the first time against the Pittsburgh Pirates and his best friend, Gene Lamont.

"Once the game starts, Gene and I are professionals and we're just trying to get a win," Leyland said after Florida's 3-0 victory Monday night.

After 11 seasons in Pittsburgh, which including three straight NL East titles from 1990 to 1992, Leyland left last October to become the Marlins' manager.

Lamont, his replacement in Pittsburgh, was his third-base coach.

Compared with the low-key atmosphere at the game Monday night in Miami, Lamont expects more hype when the Marlins visit the Pirates from May 16 to 18.

"I talked to Jim and we expect it to be much different when Jim comes to Pittsburgh," Lamont said. "Jim was a big part of this franchise for 11 years."

Rick Helling, who moved out of the bullpen to make his first start this season, allowed two hits in six scoreless innings. He was taking the spot of Al

Leiter, placed on the 15-day disabled list Friday because of a severely bruised right knee.

Helling retired his final 12 batters after pitching out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the third. Jay Powell and

NL ROUNDUP

Robb Nen completed the four-hitter, with Nen getting his eighth save in nine chances.

Jon Lieber retired 13 consecutive batters before Edgar Renteria reached on a bunt single in the fourth. Cliff Floyd's bounce got past second baseman Tony Womack for an error, sending Renteria to third. Both scored on Gary Sheffield's double past third, with Floyd awarded home because of Womack's interference.

Braves 2, Cardinals 1 Atlanta gained its seventh consecutive victory in St. Louis as Denny Neagle (5-0) allowed five hits in eight innings.

Ryan Klesko homered leading off the fifth. The Braves added a run in the sixth

when Kenny Lofton, breaking for home on a squeeze play, scored when Mike Mordecai swung away and grounded out to shortstop.

Dodgers 3, Reds 1 Billy Ashley broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth with a two-run homer at Dodger Stadium, and Hideo Nomo, who allowed six hits in eight innings, improved to 4-0 against the Reds.

Mets 6, Rockies 1 Todd Hundley homered from both sides of the plate, went 4-for-4 and drove in five runs at Coors Field as the Mets won for the seventh time in nine games.

Bobby Jones held the Rockies to one run and six hits in seven innings.

Giants 4, Expos 2 Jeff Kent and Mark Lewis homered to back Mark Gardner, who gave up two first-inning runs, but followed, with five shutout innings at San Francisco.

Astros 2, Phillies 2 Rookie Chris Holt allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, and Jeff Bagwell and Luis Gonzalez each homered and drove in three runs at the Astrodome.

Clemens Remains a Perfect Blue Jay

The Associated Press
So far, Roger Clemens is unbeatable with the Toronto Blue Jays.

He pitched a five-hitter Monday and improved to 5-0 as Toronto beat the Detroit Tigers, 3-1. Clemens, who left Boston in the off-season for a three-year, \$25 million deal with the Jays, struck out 10 and walked none.

After giving up a two-out double to Bobby Higginson in the third, he retired 13 consecutive batters before Damon Easley singled in the eighth.

"I feel blessed and fortunate to be off to such a good start," said Clemens, whose earned run average, the best in the American League, dropped to 1.58. "Now, if we can get the hitting going, there are going to be a lot of smiles in this clubhouse."

Clemens is having his best start since

1991, when he won his first six decisions. He started 14-0 in 1986.

Melvin Nieves's run-scoring triple put Detroit up, 1-0, in the second inning. Toronto moved ahead, 2-1, in the fifth

AL ROUNDUP

on a two-run double by Carlos Garcia and added a run in the eighth on Joe Carter's sacrifice fly.

Angels 7, Orioles 2 Tim Salmon hit a run-scoring single in a four-run first inning and a three-run homer in the eighth as Anaheim won in Baltimore. Baltimore lost for only the third time in 10 games.

Twins 9, Yankees 8 In New York, Matt Lawton singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Minnesota rallied from four runs down to win for

just the second time in 12 games.

Royals 2, Red Sox 0 Kevin Appier pitched his third complete game of the season, and Jay Bell drove in both runs with a homer and sacrifice fly as Kansas City won at Boston. Appier (4-1) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out seven for his 10th career shutout.

Brewers 11, Athletics 7 In Milwaukee, Jose Valentin hit a bases-loaded triple in his first game back from the disabled list, and Scott Kari won for the first time in 10 starts.

Valentin, who missed three weeks with a broken left middle finger, helped prevent Kari (1-5) from becoming the first pitcher in the team's history to start 0-6. Kari was lifted in the fifth, then watched his teammates turn a 3-2 deficit into an 8-3 lead in the bottom of the inning.

Pitino Takes Celtics' \$70 Million

The Associated Press
BOSTON — Rick Pitino announced Tuesday that he was leaving the University of Kentucky to become coach of the Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association for a salary higher than that of any coach in any sport.

He accepted a reported 10-year contract worth more than \$70 million, exceeding the \$25 million, five-year contract the Philadelphia 76ers gave Larry Brown this week.

"I look forward to the challenge," said Pitino, adding that he did not make a decision until Monday night.

Pitino would not discuss details of his contract, however, which he said he did not sign until minutes before the news conference. He said he would hold another news conference in Boston on Thursday.

Pitino, who had called the Celtics' job "the greatest opportunity ever afforded a coach," announced his decision at the school he led to the Final Four three times in his eight years there, winning the national title in 1996.

He returns to the NBA and the city where he began his head coaching career in 1978, at Boston University.

Pitino, who coached the New York Knicks from 1987-89, faces the daunting task of rebuilding the Celtics, who have more wins and titles than any team in NBA history but finished this season with a franchise-worst record, 15-67. Pitino had three years, worth more than \$7 million, left on his Kentucky contract.

The Celtics seemed ready to welcome him with a front-office shake-up, which

might persuade Larry Bird, the team's special assistant and former star, to remain.

Pitino met with Kentucky's athletic director, C. M. Newton, for an hour and a half at Newton's home. When Newton returned to the campus, he refused to give details of the talk but did say that Pitino had made his decision.

The Boston Globe had reported Tuesday that the team president, Red Auerbach, said Pitino would be the Celtics' coach and "something else" next season.

The newspaper said the other position was director of operations.

Auerbach denied making that statement, according to the Boston Herald.

Pitino said last month that he would be interested in the Celtics only if Bird stayed, an uncertain prospect since the Indiana Pacers are willing to give him a lucrative contract to coach his home-state team.

Yet reported personnel moves could satisfy some of Bird's public complaints about the Celtics' management organization. And the Herald said that the team's owner, Paul Gaston, was still trying to keep Bird.

The Celtics vacancy developed when M. L. Carr quit last Wednesday after two seasons in which the team was 48-116.

Carr, who stayed as director of basketball operations, began notifying his assistant coaches they should be prepared to move on, the Globe reported.

The director of travel and team services, Wayne Lebeaux, and the director of publications and information, Dave

Zuccaro, were dismissed, both papers reported. Two marketing employees also reportedly lost their jobs and the team's general manager, Jan Volk, also might leave after 26 years with the Celtics, the Globe said.

It also said that Pitino was expected to bring Kentucky's associate coach, Jim O'Brien, with him to Boston.

Last June, Pitino said he was almost certain he would accept a coaching offer from the New Jersey Nets, but turned it down after a golf excursion to Ireland with university boosters.

"It's a matter of whether I want to be a professional basketball coach or impact lives like I've done in the past eight years," Pitino said.

Al Skinner, who moved from the University of Rhode Island to Boston College as coach on April 18, played with Pitino from 1970 through 1974 at the University of Massachusetts and spoke with him about a week ago.

"He's a very confused man at times like these," Skinner said Monday. "He has a real affection for his players. As your emotions get involved, the rational thinking goes out the window."

"If I do not take this opportunity, I have decided to be a college coach for good," Pitino said Monday.

"We took a team from probation to champion," he said. "I think the journey was even more fun than the final destination. Also, a lot of the fun has been maintaining that level."

He said the Celtic offer came sooner than anticipated, requiring him to speed up his decision to return to the NBA.

Long-Range Rockets Sink the Sonics

The Associated Press
HOUSTON — Seattle took away Hakeem Olajuwon, but the Houston Rockets' second choice was just as deadly.

Double-teaming Olajuwon did not work out the way the SuperSonics planned because Mario Elie led a 3-point

NBA PLAYOFFS

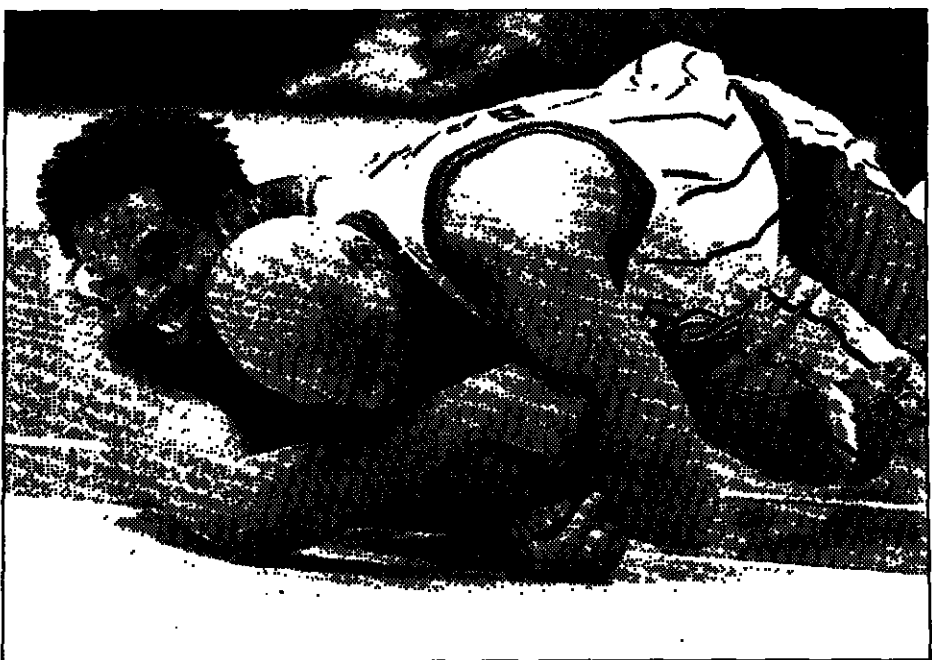
shooting display as the Rockets held off the SuperSonics for a 112-102 victory in the opener of their second-round playoff series Monday night.

"We gave them a lot of opportunities to shoot the ball, and they knocked them down," said Gary Payton, a Seattle guard. "We have to go out tomorrow and change some things. We'll find solutions. There's a lot of games left in this series."

Elie, who finished with 20 points, got the Rockets started by making all five of his 3-point attempts in the first half, matching a playoff record. The Rockets hit 10 of 15 3-pointers for a 64-55 halftime lead and finished the game 15-of-28 from long range.

"I had no conscience, I just let it go," Elie said. "After the first one went down, I felt good. I had fresh legs. I was the lucky guy. I was getting some good looks, and the guys kept kicking the ball out to me."

The Rockets kept extending their lead, and the SuperSonics, despite just finishing a five-game series with Phoenix, kept charging back. The Rockets built a 103-76



The Sonics' Sam Perkins, left, fighting for the ball with the Rockets' Charles Barkley.

advantage with 10:07 left, but Hersey Hawkins hit four 3-point baskets in a row during a 26-9 run that cut the Rockets' final victory margin.

"It wasn't easy, it was deceiving," Olajuwon said. "They played very well. We can't get carried away. The pressure is still on until the last game."

Elie tied the record for 3-pointers without a miss shared by three players, most recently by Seattle's Nate McMillan against the Rockets on May 6, 1996.

"He's been our most consistent player all season," the

Rockets' coach, Rudy Tomjanovich, said. "I thought it was an excellent performance by everybody that played for us."

"In the first half, they shot the ball well and we were hesitating," said George Karl, the Seattle coach. "In the second half, with the turnovers and missed layups, they became sluggish offensively."

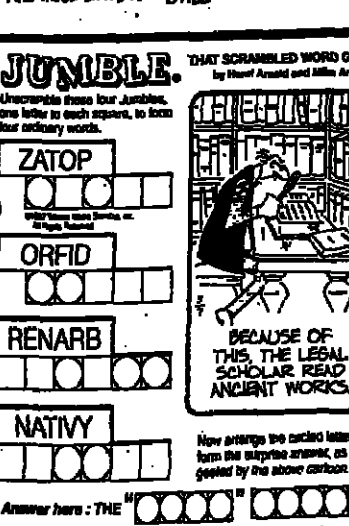
He added, "This is two games in a row they've done stuff to us pretty substantially, and we are going to have to evaluate and come back and tinker here and there."

The Rockets' coach, Rudy Tomjanovich, said. "I thought it was an excellent performance by everybody that played for us."

DENNIS THE MENACE



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PEANUTS



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



WIZARD of ID



NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY



Dietary Insults

A few days later Woods was — I resist the suicidal temptation to say he was "on the griddle," or "in a pickle."

No, that's not absurd. It's tragic.

I've taste for travel. Lucchese cowboy boots, cattle ranching, polo and nostalgic relics, from old leather mailbags to a 1938 BMW motorcycle with sidecar. His office is full of some of his favorite things: walking sticks and old leather suitcases, autographed baseballs, stuffed pheasants, a 10-gallon hat and a wall of books: some of these items

"Peterman had an entrepreneur-

John Peterman in his catalogue goods warehouse in Kentucky.

"It's fun," Peterman said. Sales haven't gone up, but, he added, "It doesn't hurt when 37 million people hear the name on the top television show."

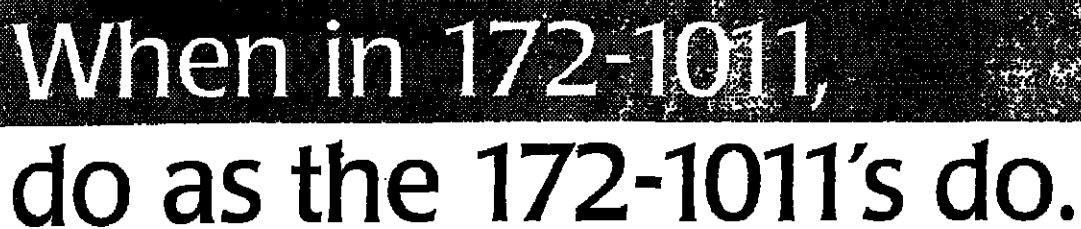
TO JAMES WITH LOVE — Sean Connery waving to a packed house at a tribute to the actor Monday at Avery Fisher Hall in New York.

The oceanfront California ranch of former President Ronald Reagan has been on sale for eight months with no takers. Sotheby's International Realty is handling the sale and the asking price is \$5.95 million. Besides having hosted the likes of Mikhail Gorbachev and Queen Elizabeth II, the 860-acre (344-hectare) property has little else going for it with

Michael Jackson, the Bee Gees and the group Crosby, Stills and Nash are

Bryant Gumbel, the former co-host of NBC's "Today" show spent his first day at CBS on the defensive because of comments from ABC's news chairman, **Roone Arledge**. In the latest issue of *Vanity Fair*, Arledge said that Gumbel is "not even in the same league" as **Ted Koppel**, **Diane Sawyer** and **Peter Jen-**

Dozens of residents showed up to watch as Clint Eastwood started filming the movie based on the best-selling novel by John Berendt, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," in Savannah, Georgia. The book is a true story about a gay antiques dealer unsuccessfully tried four times for the 1981 murder of a young gigolo. The film stars Kevin Spacey and John Cusack.



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